

## The Short-term Campaign Panel of the German Longitudinal Election Study 2009: Design, Implementation, Data Preparation, and Archiving; Version 5.0.0

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Version 5.0.0

*Markus Steinbrecher, Joss Roßmann, &  
Michael Bergmann*



GESIS Papers 2015|04

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## GESIS Papers

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# 1 Preliminary Notes<sup>1</sup>

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## 1.1 Working with GLES Data

This publication and the corresponding dataset are data of the German Longitudinal Election Study (GLES), published by GESIS in cooperation with the German Society for Electoral Studies (DGfW). Although these data have been carefully prepared and examined, GESIS and the DGfW cannot guarantee that the data do not contain any errors. Known errors are documented (errata list in the GESIS data catalogue, <http://www.gesis.org/en/services/research/data-catalogue/>) and corrected promptly. Should you notice an error, please send us a message to [gles@gesis.org](mailto:gles@gesis.org) so that the problems can be handled. Please include a short description of the problem as well as the study number (ZA-No.) and the version of the dataset. A new version of the data file will be released shortly afterwards. We recommend to always using the latest version of the GLES data. You will find the latest version in the GESIS data catalogue (<http://www.gesis.org/en/services/research/data-catalogue/>).

## 1.2 Announcement of Publications with GLES Data

To get an overview of the use of our data, we kindly request users of GLES data to inform us about publications that utilize those data. In case of limited access to your publication (e.g. conference papers), we would highly appreciate if you could send us an electronic (PDF file, [gles@gesis.org](mailto:gles@gesis.org)) or a print copy of your publication (GESIS, GLES, Post Box 122155, 68072 Mannheim, Germany).

## 1.3 Citation of GLES Data

Please include the following citation in your publications with GLES data:

Rattinger, Hans; Roßteutscher, Sigrid; Schmitt-Beck, Rüdiger; Weißels, Bernhard; Steinbrecher, Markus (2015): Short-term Campaign Panel (GLES 2009). GESIS Data Archive, Cologne. ZA5305 Data file Version 5.0.0, [doi:10.4232/1.12198](https://doi.org/10.4232/1.12198).

## 1.4 Reason for a new release

During the accumulation of Short-term Campaign Panel 2009 and 2013 (ZA5757) a few time variables per page were found to be wrong and were corrected. As a result the dataset is published in a new version 5.0.0 and comes along with a new release of the former technical report. Beyond the corrections, the new release is used to implement the state of the art speederindex of GLES which was developed by Roßmann (2010) throughout the last years. In accord to the Short-term Campaign Panel 2013 the speederindex is calculated for each wave and no flagvariable is provided. Instead, users have the opportunity to flag the speeders setting a certain "critical" level on their own. Weights are calculated in regard to speeders and the old quality index are placed at the end of the dataset. Thus, they are still available for analysis replication.

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<sup>1</sup> This GESIS Paper is a translated and partly updated version of Steinbrecher, Roßmann, and Bergmann (2013). We would like to thank Andrea Kumler for translating large parts of the text into English.

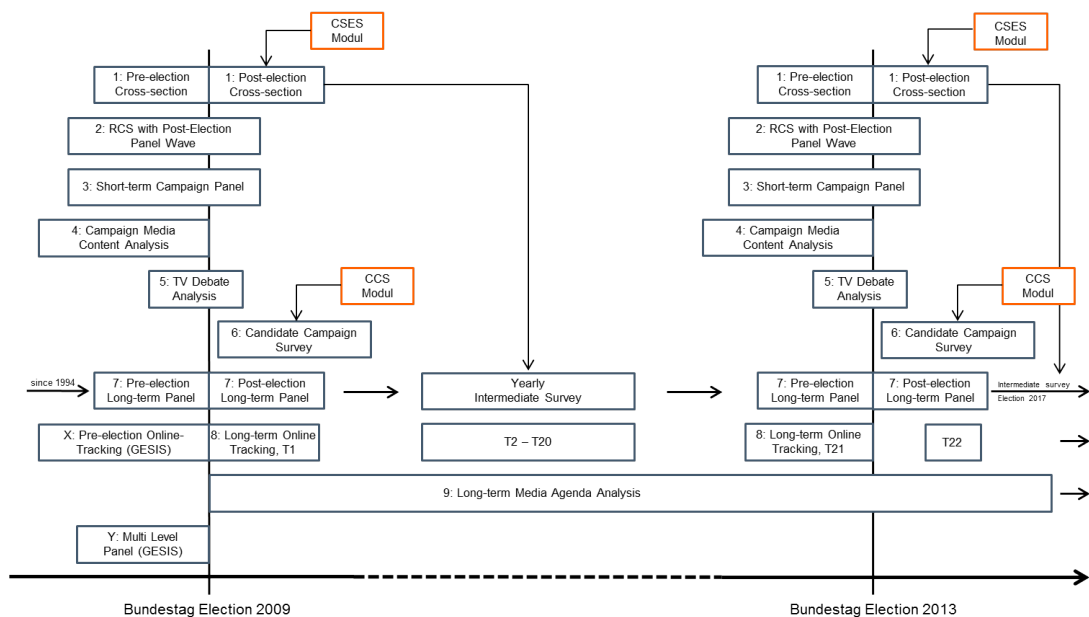


## 2 Introduction

The German Longitudinal Election Study (GLES) is the largest and most ambitious election study held so far in Germany. The project, which is supported by grants of the German Research Foundation (DFG, Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft e.V.), aims at observing the political attitudes and predispositions as well as the political behavior of the German electorate in the German elections 2009, 2013, and 2017. The long-term goal is to institutionalize the study as German National Election Study at GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences after the 2017 election.

The GLES allows to analyze the electoral behavior of the electorate in cross-sectional and longitudinal perspective as well as in regard to short-term dynamics during the election campaign and long-term processes of social and societal change (Schmitt-Beck et al. 2010). Figure 1 gives an overview of the design of the GLES 2009 and 2013. The Short-term Campaign Panel (component 3) investigates – as well as the Rolling Cross-Section Campaign Survey with Post-Election Panel Wave (RCS, component 2) – the short-term dynamics during the election campaign. In contrast to the RCS the Short-term Campaign Panel observes these processes on the level of the individual. Hence, it enables the researcher to observe and analyze intra-individual information processing and decision processes during the election campaign.

Figure 1: The Design of the German Longitudinal Election Study (GLES) 2009 and 2013



The aim of the Short-term Campaign Panel 2009 was to interview at least 3.000 respondents at least 4 times. A quota sample of panelists who were eligible to vote in the 2009 election to the German Bundestag was drawn from a non-probability online panel. The respondents were invited to the first wave of the Campaign Panel 12 weeks in advance to the election. The six pre-election waves and one post-election wave were conducted in a bi-weekly rhythm. Overall 4,552 respondents participated in the Campaign Panel, of which 3,301 took part in at least four and 1,462 completely answered all seven panel waves.

The GESIS Paper, first, presents the design and implementation of the Short-term Campaign Panel 2009. Here, the design and the method of the data collection are discussed in detail. Second, it describes the structure of the dataset as well as the data preparation and the archiving. Besides general

aspects of the data preparation, this part focuses on distinctive features of panel surveys, for instance the handling of "panel mutants" and the computation of panel weights. Finally, it comments on the representativeness of Web surveys with respondents from non-probability online panels. The GESIS Paper closes with a detailed list of errata.

### 3 Design and Implementation of the Short-term Campaign Panel 2009

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#### 3.1 Study No.

ZA5305 (Version 5.0.0)

doi: 10.4232/1.12198

#### 3.2 Title

German Longitudinal Election Study, Component 3: Short-term Campaign Panel

#### 3.3 Date of Collection

07/10/2009–10/07/2009

Table 1: Date of Collection by Waves

Wave	Field start	Field end
1 <sup>st</sup> wave	July 10, 2009	July 20, 2009
2 <sup>nd</sup> wave	July 24, 2009	August 2, 2009
3 <sup>rd</sup> wave	August 7, 2009	August 17, 2009
4 <sup>th</sup> wave	August 21, 2009	August 31, 2009
5 <sup>th</sup> wave	September 4, 2009	September 13, 2009
6 <sup>th</sup> wave	September 18, 2009	September 27, 2009
7 <sup>th</sup> wave	September 29, 2009	October 7, 2009

#### 3.4 Principal Investigators

Prof. Dr. Hans Rattinger (University of Mannheim)

Prof. Dr. Sigrid Rossteutscher (Goethe University Frankfurt)

Prof. Dr. Ruediger Schmitt-Beck (University of Mannheim)

PD Dr. Bernhard Wessels (Social Science Research Center Berlin)

### 3.5 Data Collection

The organization and implementation of the data collection process was done by the Bamberg Center for Empirical Studies (BACES) at the University of Bamberg. Furthermore, BACES acted as gateway to the online access panel provider Respondi AG, carried out the programming of the questionnaires, and hosted the Web surveys.

### 3.6 Funding Agency

German Research Foundation (DFG, Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft e.V.)

### 3.7 Target and Frame Population

The target population of the Campaign Panel comprises all German citizens who were eligible to vote in the election to the German Bundestag on September 29, 2009. Due to the decision to collect the data of the Campaign Panel online the frame population is restricted to members of the non-probability online panel of the Respondi AG who were eligible to vote in the 2009 election to the German Bundestag (see Table 2). The online panel comprised about 65.000 active panelists in Germany in 2009. As defined by Respondi, active panelists are those persons who completed the double-opt-in registration, completed the master questionnaire about basic personal information, and successfully participated in at least one survey within the last twelve months.

**Table 2: Distribution of Socio-demographic Characteristics in the Respondi Online Panel**

Percentage	
<b>Sex</b>	
Female	54%
Male	46%
<b>Education</b>	
Low (i.e., no graduation, or graduation after 8 or 9 years of schooling) ("Hauptschulabschluss, Volksschulabschluss")	14%
Intermediate (i.e., secondary qualification, after 10 years of schooling ("Mittlere Reife, Realschulabschluss, or Polytechnische Oberschule mit Abschluss 10. Klasse")	34%
High (i.e., Abitur, advanced technical certificate)	52%
<b>Age group</b>	
14–19 years	11%
20–29 years	41%
30–39 years	23%
40–49 years	16%
50–59 years	7%
60 years and older	2%

Respondi uses different channels to recruit new panelists (Table 3). The company mainly recruits online, but, to a lesser extent, also offline. The most important recruitment sources are online opinion portals run by Respondi such as [www.sozioland.de](http://www.sozioland.de). Moreover, Respondi also makes use of on-site surveys, search engines and recruitment by telephone realized by cooperating market research institutes.

**Table 3: Recruitment to the Respondi Online Panel**

	Percentage
Via opinion portals sozioland/demandi	87%
Via online advertising	5%
Via on-site surveys	5%
CATI-recruitment	2%
Search engines	1%

For participating in the surveys, Respondi offers incentives to the members of the online panel, namely 10 so-called Respondi-points (rps) per minute, which, in 2009, was the equivalent of approx. 0.10 €. Having summed at least ten Euros, the panelist may choose between cash payment, shopping coupons or a donation. In addition, the panelists regularly take part in the prize draw for the maintenance of the panel.

Respondi states having a very effective quality management. The responsiveness of the panelists is constantly measured and monitored. For instance, if the panelist did not take part in a survey within the last 12 months, if he registered double or if he consciously gave false data for several times, Respondi will delete the panelist of the database.

This quality management combined with just a moderate number of requests for participation is supposed to help avoid unwanted effects such as panel distortions or professionalization of the panelists. An average panelist will remain in the Respondi-panel for 18 months. Within one year, about 15 percent of all members drop out of the panel as a result of exclusions due to quality control or as a result of panel attrition.

The average participation rate of the panelists is about 60 percent for a 5-day-survey. This quota is calculated based on all started interviews. The total number of completed interviews, screen-outs (selection of participants according to the target group of a survey), quota-fulls (exclusion due to already achieved pre-determined quotas), and break-offs is divided through the total number of invitations.

### 3.8 Selection Method and Quota

The sample for the Campaign Panel was drawn from the frame population of members of the online panel who were eligible to vote in the 2009 election to the German Bundestag. Invitations were based on the profile data from the panelists' accounts. The final quota resulted from details on age, gender and education the respondents had to provide at the beginning of the survey. The aim of the Short-term Campaign Panel was to interview at least 3,000 respondents at least 4 times. For this purpose the total number of respondents in the second wave was increased by 781 persons by additional recruitment. 293 cases were removed from the dataset because the information on gender, age and education did not match the information formerly given (panel mutants, for further information see page 37). 12 additional cases were removed from the dataset, because these respondents stated that they were not eligible to vote (they were too young or they did not have the German citizenship). Yet, voting eligibility was a requirement to be admitted to the Campaign Panel. Since people may possibly give wrong information when registering or use the account of friends or relatives it will not be possible to avoid such incidents entirely.

Table 4: Implementation of the Quota by Waves before Data Preparation

In %	Quota	Assigned						
		W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6	W7
Sex								
Male	50.0	49.6	50.4	50.5	49.0	51.7	48.9	49.9
Female	50.0	50.4	49.6	49.5	51.0	48.3	51.1	50.1
Education								
Low*	35.0	26.1	23.0	22.1	21.0	20.8	20.5	20.2
Intermediate**	40.0	39.9	40.9	41.7	41.5	41.9	41.7	42.7
High***	25.0	34.0	36.1	36.2	37.5	37.3	37.8	37.1
Age group								
18-29 years	25.0	24.9	24.0	23.6	22.8	22.5	23.0	22.8
30-39 years	20.0	20.1	18.2	18.3	18.7	18.3	18.4	18.8
40-49 years	25.0	23.6	24.4	24.3	24.2	24.9	24.7	25.3
50-59 years	15.0	15.9	16.7	17.0	17.2	16.8	17.2	17.1
60 years >	15.0	15.5	16.7	16.8	17.1	17.5	16.7	16.0

\*Low: School completed without graduation, Elementary School graduation, lowest formal qualification of Germany's tripartite secondary school system, after 8 or 9 years of schooling ("Hauptschulabschluss, Volksschulabschluss"), still attending school

\*\*Intermediate: Intermediary secondary qualification, after 10 years of schooling ("Mittlere Reife, Realschulabschluss, or Polytechnische Oberschule mit Abschluss 10. Klasse")

\*\*\*High: Certificate fulfilling entrance requirements to study at a polytechnical college/university of applied sciences ("Fachhochschulreife (Abschluss einer Fachoberschule etc.)") or higher qualification, entitling holders to study at a university ("Abitur or Erweiterte Oberschule mit Abschluss 12. Klasse (Hochschulreife)")

Table 5: Distribution of Sex, Education and Age, separated by Waves before Data

In %	W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6	W7
<b>Sex</b>							
Male	49.5	50.2	50.2	50.7	51.3	51.2	50.0
Female	50.5	49.8	49.8	49.3	48.7	48.8	50.0
<b>Education</b>							
Low	28.5	25.5	25.0	23.5	23.6	22.7	22.9
Intermediate	38.7	39.7	39.7	40.0	40.2	40.3	40.9
High	32.8	34.8	35.4	36.5	36.2	37.0	36.3
<b>Age group</b>							
18-29 years	25.0	25.2	24.4	23.9	23.3	22.9	23.6
30-39 years	20.0	20.0	18.0	18.1	18.2	17.8	18.4
40-49 years	25.0	23.8	24.7	24.5	24.4	25.3	24.8
50-59 years	15.0	15.9	16.9	17.2	17.4	17.2	17.3
60 years >	15.0	15.0	16.0	16.3	16.7	16.8	15.8

\* See page 35 for further information on speeders

In order to meet the quota concerning socio-demographic features as exactly as possible the panelists of the first wave were invited in several steps. At field start, a so-called soft-launch with about 100-150 panelists was carried out, allowing to verify that the process went properly with regard to technicals and programming. The main invitation started thereafter (full-launch). To meet the quota requirements, at first priority was given to panel members who were presumably less likely to participate. Past experiences have shown that, e.g., elderly persons or lower educated persons are hard to reach in Web surveys. After meeting these quota targets, panelists were invited to participate according to by then unrealized quotas. As mentioned above, additional panelists were recruited in wave two in order to enlarge the respondent pool and to meet the quotas again.

Invited persons not having completed the survey within three days or having interrupted the survey were again invited and asked to continue their participation. Table 4 provides an overview of realized quotas for single waves prior to data preparation. Table 5 and Table 6 provide the same information for the Campaign Panel after data preparation with and without speeders (see page 35).

**Table 6: Distribution of Sex, Education and Age, separated by Waves after Data Preparation, without Speeders\***

In %	W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6	W7
<b>Sex</b>							
Male	49.9	50.6	50.6	51.2	51.7	51.6	50.1
Female	50.1	49.4	49.4	48.8	48.3	48.4	49.9
<b>Education</b>							
Low	28.6	25.1	24.5	23.1	23.2	22.3	22.3
Intermediate	38.2	38.9	39.0	39.0	39.3	39.2	39.9
High	33.2	36.0	36.5	37.9	37.5	38.5	37.8
<b>Age group</b>							
18-29 years	23.2	21.9	21.3	20.8	20.3	21.1	21.1
30-39 years	19.4	17.2	17.4	17.2	17.0	17.5	17.5
40-49 years	24.6	25.6	25.5	25.5	26.3	25.8	26.5
50-59 years	16.5	17.7	18.0	18.2	18.0	18.2	17.9
60 years >	16.3	17.5	17.8	18.3	18.4	17.4	17.0

\* See page 35 for further information on speeders

### 3.9 Data Collection Method

The Short-term Campaign Panel was implemented as a seven-wave Web survey with a standardized questionnaire.

A split-ballot design was implemented in the following waves:

- Waves 1 to 7: One half of the respondents received 11-point scales, the other half 7-point scales in all waves for questions about positional issues (kpx\_1070 to kpx\_1483). Due to mistakes in the continuation of split groups beginning in wave 2, some respondents received both 7-point and 11-point scales.
- In wave 3, separate questionnaire versions were used for those respondents who started the panel in wave 1 (version A) and for panelists who participated for the first time in wave 2 (version B). The latter group received questions on socio-demographics in wave 3 which respondents starting in wave 1 had already answered. Additionally, wave 1 respondents received questions about their second most important discussion partner (kp3\_2000 to kp3\_2060).
- Wave 4 and 5: Split-half: Half of the respondents were supposed to receive the questions about their reception probability and the presumed result of the televised debate, while the other half of the respondents did not receive these questions. Yet the transfer of this split from wave 4 to wave 5 did not work properly.

### 3.10 Data Collection Software

GlobalPark AG, EFS Survey 6.0 (now QuestBack)

### 3.11 Incentives

To increase the target persons' willingness to participate, additional incentives were announced at the start of the Short-term Campaign Panel. All respondents who completed at least five panel waves were entitled for a lottery of cash prizes. The amount of prizes was dependent on the number of completed waves.

- 50 respondents who participated in all seven panel waves won 100 Euro each.
- 50 respondents who participated in six panel waves won 50 Euro each.
- 50 respondents who participated in five panel waves won 30 Euro each.

Thus, 9,000 Euro were drawn in total.

### 3.12 Invitation of the Panelists

For the invitation to wave 1, Respondi used the following standard text:

"Dear (name of panelist),

Today, we would like to invite you to the first wave of a new survey. It will take you about 20 minutes to complete the questionnaire. Provided you belong to the target group (complete questionnaire) you will be credited 150 panel points. If you won't qualify for this survey (reduced questionnaire), you will automatically enter the monthly price draw of 50 x 10 rps. Please understand that in some cases the determination of the target group may cover several short questions. The present survey is the first of 7 surveys in total we would like to ask you to participate within the next few weeks.

To ensure the high quality of our study it is crucial to participate in as many waves as possible. We will reward your commitment as follows:

Persons taking part in

- 7 of 7 surveys will take part in a cash draw of 50 times 100 Euro
- 6 of 7 surveys will take part in a cash draw of 50 times 50 Euro
- 5 of 7 surveys will take part in a cash draw of 50 times 30 Euro

Click here for the survey: (link)

Sometimes you will be asked to enter a code at the end of the survey. If so, please enter this code: (code)

As usual we would like to assure that the data will be analyzed anonymously. We will merely present the aggregated data, thus making it impossible to associate your personal data with the presented results.

Have fun

Best wishes from Sarah Maiwald, respondi team

++KEEP US UP-TO-DATE++ your postal code changed? You got married or started a new job? Please update your details constantly so that we may invite you to surveys that are of interest to you. Just click [www.respondi.de](http://www.respondi.de), enter your E-Mail-address and your password and follow the link "Change personal data".



Respondi's invitation for participants who completed the survey in wave 1 received an invitation for waves 2 to 7 consisting of the following standardized text:

"Dear (name of panelist),

Today, we would like to invite you to the x. wave of a new survey. It will take you about xx minutes to complete the questionnaire. Provided you belong to the target group (complete questionnaire) you will be credited xx panel points. If you won't qualify for this survey (reduced questionnaire), you will automatically enter the monthly price draw of 50 x 10 rps. Please understand that in some cases the determination of the target group may cover several short questions. The present survey is the x. part of 7 surveys in total we would like to ask you to participate within the next few weeks.

To ensure the high quality of our study it is crucial to take part in as many waves as possible. We will reward your commitment as follows:

Persons taking part in

- 7 of 7 surveys will take part in a cash draw of 50 times 100 Euro
- 6 of 7 surveys will take part in a cash draw of 50 times 50 Euro
- 5 of 7 surveys will take part in a cash draw of 50 times 30 Euro

Click here for the survey: (link)

Sometimes you will be asked to enter a code at the end of the survey. If so, please enter this code: (code)

As usual we would like to assure that the data will be analyzed anonymously. We will merely present the aggregated data, thus making it impossible to associate your personal data with the presented results.

Have fun

Best wishes from Sarah Maiwald, respondi team

++KEEP US UP-TO-DATE++ your postal code changed? You got married or started a new job? Please update your details constantly so that we may invite you to surveys that are of interest to you. Just click [www.respondi.de](http://www.respondi.de), enter your E-Mail-address and your password and follow the link "Change personal data".

Respondi's invitation for participants having been recruited in wave 2 only consisted of the following standardized text:

"Dear (name of panelist),

Today, we would like to invite you to xxx wave of a new survey. It will take you about xx minutes to complete the questionnaire. Provided you belong to the target group (complete questionnaire) you will be credited 150 panel points. If you won't qualify for this survey (reduced questionnaire), you will automatically enter the monthly price draw of 50 x 10 rps. Please understand that in some cases the determination of the target group may cover several short questions. The present survey is the xxx part of 7 surveys in total we would like to ask you to participate within the next few weeks.

To ensure the high quality of our study it is crucial to take part in as many waves as possible. We will reward your commitment as follows:

Persons taking part in

- 6 of 7 surveys will take part in a cash draw of 50 times 50 Euro
- 5 of 7 surveys will take part in a cash draw of 50 times 30 Euro

Click here for the survey: (link)

Sometimes you will be asked to enter a code at the end of the survey. If so, please enter this code: (code)

As usual we would like to assure that the data will be analyzed anonymously. We will merely present the aggregated data, thus making it impossible to associate your personal data with the presented results.

Have fun

Best wishes from Sarah Maiwald, respondi team

++KEEP US UP-TO-DATE++ your postal code changed? You got married or started a new job? Please update your details constantly so that we may invite you to surveys that are of interest to you. Just click [www.respondi.de](http://www.respondi.de), enter your E-Mail-address and your password and follow the link "Change personal data".

Panelists accepting the invitation were redirected to the BACES webpage where the survey was hosted and – in the name of the persons in charge of the GLES study – were invited to take part in the actual survey. The invitation was as follows:

"Welcome!

We are pleased to notice that you will participate in our survey which is part of a project investigating the federal election 2009 throughout Germany. By participating you will ensure the success of our research.

We would like to thank you very much for your participation. Have fun!

Professor Dr. Hans Rattinger and Dr. Markus Steinbrecher"

### 3.13 Reminders

Persons not taking part in the survey within three days after the invitation received the following reminder:

"Dear (name of panelist),

Recently we have invited you to the xxx wave of a series of surveys. If you haven't had the chance to participate so far we would be very glad if you would be willing to accept our invitation today, as we are strongly interested in your opinion. It will take you about xx minutes to complete the questionnaire. Provided you belong to the target group (complete questionnaire) you will be credited xxx panel points. If you won't qualify for this survey (reduced questionnaire) you will automatically enter the monthly price draw of 50 x 10 rps. Please understand that in some cases the determination of the target group may cover several short questions. The present survey is the xxx part of 7 surveys in total we would like to ask you to participate within the next few weeks.

To ensure the high quality of our study it is crucial to take part in as many waves as possible. We will reward your commitment as follows:

Persons taking part in

- 7 of 7 surveys will take part in a cash draw of 50 times 100 Euro
- 6 of 7 surveys will take part in a cash draw of 50 times 50 Euro
- 5 of 7 surveys will take part in a cash draw of 50 times 30 Euro

Click here for the survey: (link)

Sometimes you will be asked to enter a code at the end of the survey. If so, please enter as follows: (code)

As usual we would like to assure that the data will be analyzed anonymously. We will merely present the aggregated data, thus making it impossible to associate your personal data with the presented results.

Have fun

Best wishes from Sarah Maiwald, respondi team

++KEEP US UP-TO-DATE++ your postal code changed? You got married or started a new job? Please update your details constantly so that we may invite you to surveys that are of interest to you. Just click [www.respondi.de](http://www.respondi.de), enter your E-Mail-address and your password and follow the link "Change personal data".

### 3.14 Timing of Invitations and Reminders

Due to the design of the study, collecting data representative for the electorate of the 2009 Bundestag election was not feasible. Collecting the data online rather implied that only those persons in the electorate formed the frame population of the study who had access to the Internet, and who were members of the online panel of the Respondi AG.

Panelists were invited biweekly by email. Additionally, up to three reminders were sent to those respondents who had not yet participated in a given wave. Subject to the recruitment and progress of invitation different numbers of reminders were necessary. For waves 1 and 2, target persons were reminded six days after start of the field. At the same time, additional respondents were selectively invited to meet so far unachieved quotas (see Table 7).

**Table 7: Timing of Invitations and Reminders**

	W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6	W7
Soft-launch	7/10	7/24	8/7	8/21	9/4	9/18	9/29
Full-launch	7/11	7/25	8/8	8/22	9/5	9/19	9/30
Additional invitations	7/16	7/30	---	---	---	---	---
Reminder 1	7/14	7/31	8/11	8/24	9/7	9/21	10/3
Reminder 2	7/17	---	8/14	8/27	9/10	9/23	10/5
Reminder 3	---	---	---	8/30	---	---	---

Table 8: Participation by Days, Absolute and Relative Frequencies

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10	Day 11
Wave 1	7/10	7/11	7/12	7/13	7/14	7/15	7/16	7/17	7/18	7/19	7/20
N	188 5.0%	461 12.2%	608 16.1%	560 14.9%	559 14.8%	449 11.9%	493 13.1%	339 9.0%	75 2.0%	37 1.0%	2 0.1%
Wave 2	7/24	7/25	7/26	7/27	7/28	7/29	7/30	7/31	8/01	8/02	--
N	184 5.0%	467 12.7%	1,192 32.3%	553 15.0%	241 6.5%	105 2.8%	91 2.5%	384 10.4%	245 6.6%	227 6.2%	--
Wave 3	8/07	8/08	8/09	8/10	8/11	8/12	8/13	8/14	8/15	8/16	8/17
N	638 18.8%	772 22.7%	796 23.4%	394 11.6%	377 11.1%	155 4.6%	61 1.8%	59 1.7%	67 2.0%	43 1.3%	39 1.1%
Wave 4	8/21	8/22	8/23	8/24	8/25	8/26	8/27	8/28	8/29	8/30	8/31
N	71 2.3%	1,019 32.6%	757 24.2%	540 17.3%	191 6.1%	150 4.8%	201 6.4%	72 2.3%	42 1.3%	82 2.6%	4 0.1%
Wave 5	9/04	9/05	9/06	9/07	9/08	9/09	9/10	9/11	9/12	9/10	--
N	573 19.1%	953 31.7%	607 20.2%	357 11.9%	200 6.7%	79 2.6%	95 3.2%	49 1.6%	53 1.8%	36 1.2%	--
Wave 6	9/18	9/19	9/20	9/21	9/22	9/23	9/24	9/25	9/26	9/27	--
N	792 28.6%	519 18.7%	242 8.7%	333 12.0%	487 17.6%	194 7.0%	108 3.9%	54 1.9%	29 1.0%	16 0.6%	--
Wave 7	9/29	9/30	10/01	10/02	10/03	10/04	10/05	10/06	10/07	--	--
N	268 10.1%	669 25.2%	568 21.4%	297 11.2%	469 17.6%	191 7.2%	137 5.2%	58 2.2%	1 0.0%	--	--

Figure 2: Participation in the Short-term Campaign Panel by Days – Relative

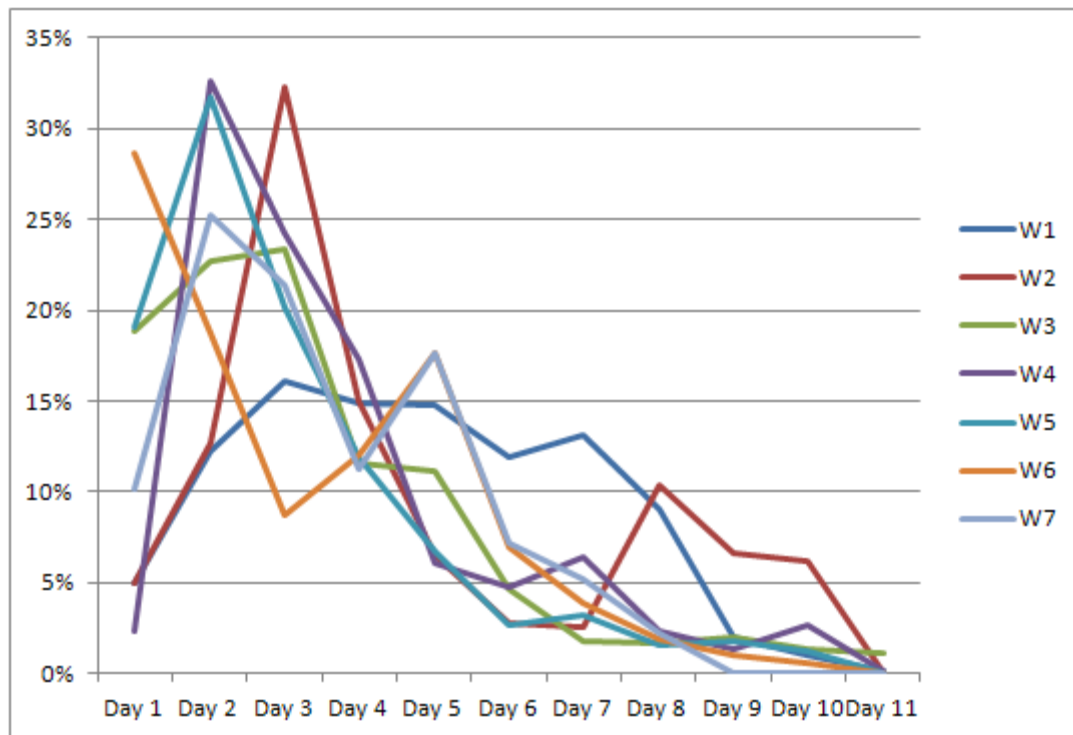


Figure 3: Participation in the Short-term Campaign Panel by Days – Absolute

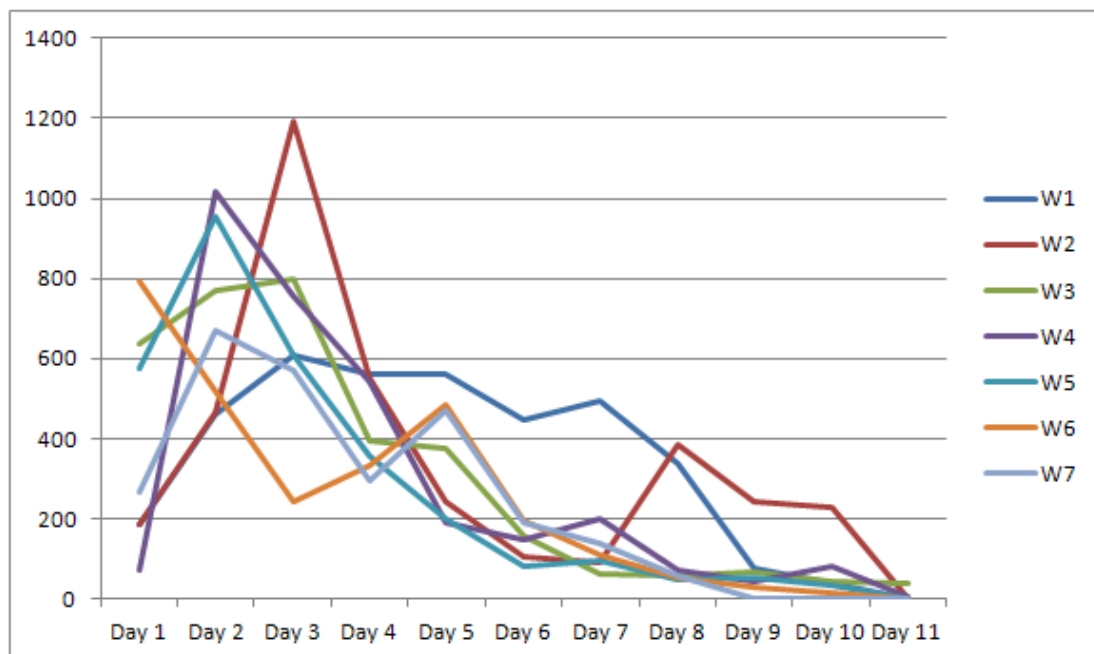


Table 9: Number of Respondents per Wave after Data Preparation

	W1	W2*	W3	W4	W5	W6	W7	Total
N	3,771	3,689	3,401	3,129	3,002	2,774	2,658	4,552
Speeders**	395	390	369	340	321	311	281	456
No speeders**	3,376	3,299	3,032	2,789	2,681	2,463	2,377	4,096

\* Thereof 781 respondents who participated as from wave 2.

\*\* See page 35 for further information on speeders

Table 10: Number of Respondents by Waves – Total – Including Speeders\* – Absolute

Respondents with participation in ... waves	W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6	W7
1	3,771	781	0	0	0	0	0
2		2,926	946	129	60	38	29
3			2,455	885	202	80	51
4				2,115	860	206	120
5					1,880	787	252
6						1,663	744
7							1,462
Total N	3,771	3,689	3,401	3,129	3,002	2,774	2,658

\* See page 35 for further information on speeders

Table 11: Number of Respondents by Waves – Total – Including Speeders\* – Relative

Respondents with participation in ... waves	W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6	W7
1	100.0%	20.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
2		79.3%	27.8%	4.1%	2.0%	1.4%	1.1%
3			72.2%	28.3%	6.7%	2.9%	1.9%
4				67.6%	28.6%	7.4%	4.5%
5					62.6%	28.4%	9.5%
6						59.9%	28.0%
7							55.0%
Total N	3,771	3,689	3,401	3,129	3,002	2,774	2,658

\* See page 35 for further information on speeders

**Table 12: Number of Respondents by Waves – Total – Without Speeders\* – Absolute**

Respondents with participation in ... waves	W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6	W7
1	3,376	797	0	0	0	0	0
2		2,579	857	119	56	33	27
3			2,175	800	185	68	46
4				1,870	780	190	107
5					1,660	708	233
6						1,464	675
7							1,289
Total N	3,376	3,299	3,032	2,789	2,681	2,463	2,377

\* See page 35 for further information on speeders

**Table 13: Number of Respondents by Waves – Total – Without Speeders\* – Relative**

Respondents with participation in ... waves	W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6	W7
1	100.0%	23.6%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
2		76.4%	28.3%	4.3%	2.1%	1.3%	1.1%
3			71.7%	28.7%	6.9%	2.8%	1.9%
4				67.0%	29.1%	7.7%	4.5%
5					61.9%	28.7%	9.8%
6						59.4%	28.4%
7							54.2%
Total N	3,376	3,299	3,032	2,789	2,681	2,463	2,377

\* See page 35 for further information on speeders

**Table 14: Number of Respondents by Waves – Commenced with Wave 1 – Including Speeders\* – Absolute**

Respondents with participation in ... waves	W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6	W7
1	3,771	0	0	0	0	0	0
2		2,908	312	81	45	29	21
3			2,455	365	117	53	40
4				2,115	404	120	81
5					1,880	404	154
6						1,663	414
7							1,462
Total N	3,771	2,908	2,767	2,561	2,446	2,269	2,172

\* See page 35 for further information on speeders

Table 15: Number of Respondents by Waves – Commenced with Wave 1 – Including Speeders\* – Relative

Respondents with participation in ... waves	W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6	W7
1	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
2		100.0%	11.3%	3.2%	1.8%	1.3%	1.0%
3			88.7%	14.3%	4.8%	2.3%	1.8%
4				82.6%	16.4%	5.3%	3.7%
5					77.0%	17.8%	7.1%
6						73.3%	19.1%
7							67.3%
Total N	3,771	2,908	2,767	2,561	2,446	2,269	2,172

\* See page 35 for further information on speeders

Table 16: Number of Respondents by Waves – Commenced with Wave 1 – Without Speeders\* – Absolute

Respondents with participation in ... waves	W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6	W7
1	3,376	0	0	0	0	0	0
2		2,579	274	74	42	26	19
3			2,175	319	108	43	37
4				1,870	357	111	71
5					1,660	355	141
6						1,464	370
7							1,289
Total N	3,376	2,579	2,449	2,263	2,167	1,999	1,927

\* See page 35 for further information on speeders

Table 17: Number of Respondents by Waves – Commenced with Wave 1 – Without Speeders\* – Relative

Respondents with participation in ... waves	W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6	W7
1	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
2		100.0%	11.2%	3.3%	1.9%	1.3%	1.0%
3			88.8%	14.1%	5.0%	2.2%	1.9%
4				82.6%	16.5%	5.6%	3.7%
5					76.6%	17.8%	7.3%
6						73.2%	19.2%
7							66.9%
Total N	3,376	2,579	2,449	2,263	2,167	1,999	1,927

\* See page 35 for further information on speeders



**Table 18: Number of Respondents by Waves – Commenced with Wave 2 – Including Speeders\* – Absolute**

Respondents with participation in ... waves	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6	W7
1	781	0	0	0	0	0
2		634	48	15	9	8
3			520	85	27	11
4				456	86	39
5					383	98
6						330
Total N	781	634	568	556	505	486

\* See page 35 for further information on speeders

**Table 19: Number of Respondents by Waves – Commenced with Wave 2 – Including Speeders\* – Relative**

Respondents with participation in ... waves	W1	W3	W4	W5	W6	W7
1	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
2		100.0%	8.5%	2.7%	1.8%	1.6%
3			91.5%	15.3%	5.3%	2.3%
4				82.0%	17.0%	8.0%
5					75.8%	20.2%
6						67.9%
Total N	781	634	568	556	505	486

\* See page 35 for further information on speeders

**Table 20: Number of Respondents by Waves – Commenced with Wave 2 – Without Speeders\* – Absolute**

Respondents with participation in ... waves	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6	W7
1	720	0	0	0	0	0
2		583	45	14	7	8
3			481	77	25	9
4				423	79	36
5					353	92
6						305
Total N	720	583	526	514	464	450

\* See page 35 for further information on speeders

Table 21: Number of Respondents by Waves – Commenced with Wave 2 – Without Speeders\* – Relative

Respondents with participation in ... waves	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6	W7
1	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
2		100.0%	8.6%	2.7%	1.5%	1.8%
3			91.4%	15.0%	5.4%	2.0%
4				82.3%	17.0%	8.0%
5					76.1%	20.4%
6						67.8%
Total N	727	589	534	525	475	460

\* See page 35 for further information on speeders

### 3.15 Response Metrics

Unit non-response error is major threat to data quality in surveys. If the variables of interest are correlated with the response propensity, nonresponse bias is the result. Reporting response rates allows us to assess the likelihood that unit nonresponse biases the results of a survey. Computing standardized response rates further ensures the comparability across different surveys. Here, we report response rates for the Short-term Campaign Panel of GLES following the standards of the American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR, <http://www.aapor.org>) and recommendations by Callegaro and DiSogra (Callegaro & DiSogra, 2008).

Generally, the interpretation of response rates in Web surveys is problematic because these surveys usually do not use random samples of the population. A commonly applied solution to this problem is to interview a random sample of members of an online panel. However, if we interview respondents from a volunteer online panel, such as the opt-in online panel of the Respondi AG, it makes little sense to compute response rates (The American Association for Public Opinion Research, 2011), because the population cannot be clearly defined. Thus, the AAPOR recommends reporting a participation rate, which is defined as "the number of respondents who have provided a usable response divided by the total number of initial personal invitations." (The American Association for Public Opinion Research, 2011) We take up this recommendation and define the participation rate as the total number of complete and partial interviews divided by the total number of invitations to the survey (complete (I) and partial (P) interviews, break-offs ( $R_{Breakoff}$ ), non-contacts (NC) and other cases (O), and all cases in which it is unclear whether they have received and seen the invitation (UH & UO)).

$$Participation\ Rate = \frac{I + P}{(I + P) + (R_{Breakoff} + NC + O) + (UH + UO)}$$

We do not consider cases which were not eligible to participate in the Short-term Campaign Panel because of full quotas or due to the ex post identification as panel mutants (see page 37).

Further, we report the breakoff rate as proposed by Callegaro and DiSogra (Callegaro & DiSogra, 2008). It is defined as

$$Breakoff\ Rate = \frac{R_{Breakoff}}{(I + P) + (R_{Breakoff})}$$

where  $R_{Breakoff}$  is the number of survey break-offs, I the number of complete, and P the number of partial interviews.

Table 22: Response metrics for the Short-term Campaign Panel

Disposition code		W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6	W7
<i>Eligible, unknown eligibility</i>								
Total number of initial personal invitations	<i>n</i>	12,423	6,022	4,862	4,847	4,841	4,835	4,829
Complete and partial interviews (I & P)	<i>n</i>	3,771	3,689	3,401	3,129	3,002	2,774	2,658
Breakoffs ( $R_{\text{Breakoff}}$ )	<i>n</i>	607	407	329	354	388	438	292
Unknown eligibility, non-interview (UH)	<i>n</i>	7,224	1,522	720	992	1,065	1,249	1,524
<i>Not eligible</i>								
Quota filled	<i>n</i>	557						
Panel mutants, excluded from dataset	<i>n</i>	264	404	412	372	386	404	355
Participation rate	%	32.5	65.7	76.4	69.9	67.4	62.2	59.4
Breakoff rate	%	13.9	9.9	8.8	10.2	11.4	13.6	9.9

The gross sample for the first wave of the Short-term Campaign Panel was drawn by Respondi from their online panel. The selected respondents were invited to participate by Respondi. Only part of the respondents accepted the invitation and started the survey. The difference between started and completed interviews results from two groups: panelists who started the interview, but did not finish it were allocated to the category of breakoffs. To meet the quota targets, panelists with certain characteristics were screened out once a quota was filled. Furthermore, during data preparation panel mutants were identified (see page 37) and subsequently deleted from the dataset, because of their classification as being not eligible to participate.

The gross sample for the second wave of the Campaign Panel comprises those panelists who had finished the first wave (including mutants). Additionally, the sample size was raised by drawing and inviting a sample of a further 2,000 panelists from the Respondi online panel. 781 respondents from the refreshment sample completed the second wave of the Short-term Campaign Panel (see Table 23).

Table 23 gives an overview of the response over the waves of the Short-term Campaign Panel. It presents the absolute numbers of respondents who completed the respective waves of the Campaign Panel. The numbers are reported separately for those respondents, who started to participate in wave 1 of the Campaign Panel, the panelists of the refreshment sample who started in wave 2, and the total sample. In addition, the table includes a participation rate, which is computed as the number of complete interviews in a respective wave divided by the overall number of panelists. Again, this participation rate is computed separately for the initial respondents (W1 panelists), the panelists of the refreshment sample (W2 panelists), and the total sample (W1 & W2 panelists).

Table 23: Response over the waves of the Short-term Campaign Panel

		W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6	W7
Panelists recruited in W1	<i>n</i>	3,771	3,771	3,771	3,771	3,771	3,771	3,771
Panelists recruited in W2 (refreshment sample)	<i>n</i>		781	781	781	781	781	781
Total sample	<i>n</i>	3,771	4,552	4,552	4,552	4,552	4,552	4,552
Interviews of W1 panelists	<i>n</i>	3,771	2,908	2,767	2,561	2,446	2,269	2,172
Participation rate of W1 panelists	%	100.0	77.1	73.4	67.9	64.9	60.2	57.6
Interviews of W2 panelists	<i>n</i>		781	634	568	556	505	486
Participation rate of W2 panelists	%		100.0	81.2	72.7	71.2	64.7	62.2
Interviews of all panelists (W1 & W2)	<i>n</i>	3,771	3,689	3,401	3,129	3,002	2,774	2,658
Overall participation rate (W1 & W2 panelists)	%	100.0	81.0	74.7	68.7	65.9	60.9	58.4

### 3.16 Interview Duration

Table 24: Completion Times Including Speeders\*

	W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6	W7
Mean	22:38	23:29	24:07	25:00	28:18	33:09	22:45
Median	20:15	20:59	21:13	21:51	25:09	29:41	20:08
Standard deviation	11:13	11:13	12:28	13:56	14:19	17:26	12:25
Minimum	2:25	3:18	2:26	3:08	2:01	2:42	1:59
Maximum	142:12	102:26	134:43	269:45	137:09	200:38	191:26

Note: Entries are in format (minutes:seconds)

\* See page 35 for further information on speeders.

Table 25: Completion Times Without Speeders\*

	W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6	W7
Mean	23:35	24:38	25:21	26:23	29:50	35:03	23:53
Median	20:58	21:50	22:19	22:52	26:18	31:34	21:00
Standard deviation	11:04	11:00	12:12	13:54	14:02	16:56	12:13
Minimum	7:34	5:47	6:53	7:44	7:35	6:35	6:25
Maximum	142:12	102:26	134:43	269:45	137:09	200:38	191:26

Note: Entries are in format (minutes:seconds)

\* See page 35 for further information on speeders.

## 4 Data Preparation and Archiving

### 4.1 Dataset

Version: 4.0.0 (2013-09-18)

Dataset: ZA5305\_v4-0-0\_en.sav (SPSS), ZA5305\_v4-0-0\_en.dta (Stata)

### 4.2 Content

Table 26: List of Questions by Waves

Item	No.	W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6	W7
Interest in politics, in general	kpx_10		X		X		X	X
Satisfaction with democracy	kpx_20	X		X		X		X
Notion of democracy	kpx_30					X		X
Attitudes to parties in general	kpx_40		X			X		
Attitudes to politics and society in general	kpx_50	X			X		X	X
Battery of extremism 1	kpx_60			X				
Other forms of participation, retrospective	kpx_70			X				X
Other forms of participation, prospective	kpx_80		X					
Political knowledge: 5%-threshold, difficult	kpx_90		X		X		X	X
Political knowledge: Secrecy of the ballot	kpx_100			X				
Political knowledge: First/second vote	kpx_110	X			X		X	X
Political knowledge: Number of federal states	kpx_120		X					
Political knowledge: Electoral law Germany	kpx_130			X			X	
Political knowledge: The Federal Council	kpx_140			X			X	
Political knowledge: Overhang seats, filter	kpx_141						X	X
Overhang seats, evaluation	kpx_142						X	X
Overhang seats, statements	kpx_143						X	X
Overhang seats, importance	kpx_144						X	X
Political knowledge: Overhang seats	kpx_145						X	X
Overhang seats, retrospective	kpx_146						X	
Overhang seats, federal election 2009	kpx_147						X	X
Overhang seats, collective rationality	kpx_148						X	
Overhang seats, behavior in general	kpx_149						X	
Satisfaction with range of political offers and methods of resolution	kpx_150					X		X
Overhang seats, behavior ego	kpx_151						X	
Confidence in institutions	kpx_160		X				X	
Intention to vote	kpx_170	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Change of intention to vote after 30 August	kpx_171					X		
Change of intention to vote after televised debate	kpx_172						X	
Voter turnout	kpx_180							X
Voting intention	kpx_190	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Vote postal voter	kpx_191			X	X	X	X	

Item	No.	W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6	W7
Federal election first/second vote	kpx_200							X
Vote (hypothetical)	kpx_210	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Alternatively eligible party	kpx_220							X
Which party was alternatively eligible?	kpx_230							X
Reasons for decision not to vote, open	kpx_240	X						
Reasons for decision not to vote, closed	kpx_250		X	X	X	X	X	X
Reasons for decision not to vote, battery	kpx_251							X
Reasons for voting decision, open	kpx_260	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Reasons for voting decision, battery	kpx_261							X
Certainty of voting decision	kpx_270	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Change of certainty of voting decision after 30 August	kpx_271					X		
Change of voting decision after 30 August	kpx_272					X		
Change of certainty of voting decision after televised debate	kpx_273						X	
Change of voting decision after televised debate	kpx_274						X	
Voting decision (hypothetical)	kpx_280							X
Voting decision (hypothetical), party	kpx_290							X
Ineligible parties	kpx_300			X			X	
Which party is ineligible	kpx_310			X			X	
Time of voting decision	kpx_320							X
Time of decision not to vote	kpx_321							X
Difficulty of voting decision	kpx_330							X
Difficulty of turnout	kpx_331							X
Satisfaction with election result	kpx_340							X
Election result: Winner and loser	kpx_341							X
Recall previous federal election (first/second vote)	kpx_350	X			X			X
Recall European elections	kpx_360		X					
Recall election to the Landtag (state election)	kpx_370			X				
Interest in the outcome of the election	kpx_380		X	X	X	X	X	
Interest, election campaign	kpx_390		X	X	X	X	X	
Interesting election campaign	kpx_391							X
Attention to election campaign	kpx_392							X
Opinions on the election campaign	kpx_393						X	
Attention to the elections to the Landtag on 30 August	kpx_394					X		
Helpfulness of election campaign	kpx_395							X
Media reliance	kpx_396							X
Contact with political parties	kpx_400		X	X	X	X	X	
Contact with political parties, election campaign	kpx_401							X
Contact with political parties, way	kpx_410		X	X	X	X	X	X
Contact with political parties, way, party	kpx_420		X	X	X	X	X	X
Scalometer parties	kpx_430	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Representation of interests	kpx_440					X		
Government, differences	kpx_450		X		X		X	X
Parties, differences	kpx_460		X		X		X	X

Item	No.	W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6	W7
Grand coalition, problem solving	kpx_470				X			
Grand coalition, influence of political parties	kpx_480				X			
Grand coalition, obstruction	kpx_490				X			
Grand coalition, obstruction, who is to blame?	kpx_500				X			
CDU/CSU-FDP-coalition, ability to solve problems	kpx_501							X
Party images, disunity	kpx_641						X	
Scalometer politicians	kpx_650	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Characteristics of chancellor candidates	kpx_660	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Preferred chancellor	kpx_670	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Left-right assessment top candidates	kpx_680			X			X	
Merkel, good aspects	kpx_690			X				
Merkel, bad aspects	kpx_700					X		
Steinmeier, good aspects	kpx_710			X				
Steinmeier, bad aspects	kpx_720					X		
Scalometer government	kpx_730		X		X		X	
Performance of government parties	kpx_740		X		X		X	
Performance of opposition parties	kpx_750		X		X		X	
Own economic situation, retrospective	kpx_760	X			X		X	X
Responsibility for own economic situation	kpx_770	X			X		X	X
Own economic situation, current	kpx_780		X		X		X	X
Own economic situation, prospective	kpx_790	X		X		X		X
General economic situation, retrospective	kpx_800	X			X		X	X
Responsibility for general economic situation	kpx_810	X			X		X	X
General economic situation, current	kpx_820	X		X		X		X
General economic situation, prospective	kpx_830		X		X		X	X
Most important issue	kpx_840	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ability to solve the most important issue	kpx_850	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Second most important issue	kpx_860	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ability to solve the second most important political issue	kpx_870	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Third most important political issue	kpx_880	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ability to solve the third most important political issue	kpx_890	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
East-West	kpx_900							X
Scalometer coalitions	kpx_910					X		
Desirable coalition	kpx_920	X	X	X	X		X	X
Perception of coalition signals	kpx_930					X		
Anticipated majorities	kpx_940					X		
Expected government	kpx_950					X		
Expected coalition	kpx_960	X	X	X	X		X	X
Coalition signals CDU/CSU	kpx_970				X			
Coalition signals SPD	kpx_980				X			
Coalition signals FDP	kpx_990				X			
Coalition signals GRUENE	kpx_1000				X			
Coalition signals DIE LINKE	kpx_1010				X			

Item	No.	W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6	W7
Percentage of votes federal election 2009, estimated	kpx_1020				X		X	
Percentage of votes federal election 2009, wished	kpx_1030				X		X	
Constituency winner	kpx_1040		X				X	
Perception opinion polls	kpx_1050	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Credibility opinion polls	kpx_1051	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Strongest party federal election	kpx_1060		X				X	
Coalition vignettes	kpx_1061					X		
Socio-economic dimension, parties	kpx_1070	X			X			X
Socio-economic dimension, chancellor candidates	kpx_1080				X			
Socio-economic dimension, ego	kpx_1090	X			X			X
Socio-economic dimension, importance	kpx_1100	X			X			X
Left-right-authoritarian, parties	kpx_1110	X			X			X
Left-right-authoritarian chancellor candidates	kpx_1120				X			
Left-right-authoritarian, ego	kpx_1130	X			X			X
Left-right-authoritarian, importance	kpx_1140	X			X			X
Economic policy, parties	kpx_1150		X			X		
Economic policy, chancellor candidates	kpx_1160		X					
Economic policy, ego	kpx_1170		X			X		
Economic policy, importance	kpx_1180		X			X		
Integration, parties	kpx_1190		X			X		
Integration, chancellor candidates	kpx_1200		X					
Integration, ego	kpx_1210		X			X		
Integration, importance	kpx_1220		X			X		
Europe, parties	kpx_1230			X				
Europe chancellor candidates	kpx_1240			X				
Europe, ego	kpx_1250			X				
Europe, importance	kpx_1260			X				
Climate protection, parties	kpx_1270		X			X		
Climate protection, chancellor candidates	kpx_1280		X					
Climate protection, ego	kpx_1290		X			X		
Climate protection, importance	kpx_1300		X			X		
Generational fairness, parties	kpx_1310			X			X	
Generational fairness, chancellor	kpx_1320			X				
Generational fairness, ego	kpx_1330			X			X	
Generational fairness, importance	kpx_1340			X			X	
Nuclear power, parties	kpx_1350	X			X			X
Nuclear power, chancellor candidates	kpx_1360				X			
Nuclear power, ego	kpx_1370	X			X			X
Nuclear power, importance	kpx_1380	X			X			X
Criminality, parties	kpx_1390			X			X	
Criminality, chancellor candidates	kpx_1400			X				
Criminality, ego	kpx_1410			X			X	
Criminality, importance	kpx_1420			X			X	
Role of the state – economic policy, parties	kpx_1430						X	



Item	No.	W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6	W7
Role of the state – economic policy, ego	kpx_1440						X	
Role of the state – economic policy, importance	kpx_1450						X	
Contraction of debts, parties	kpx_1460					X		
Contraction of debts, ego	kpx_1470					X		
Contraction of debts, importance	kpx_1480					X		
Foreign policy, parties	kpx_1481						X	
Foreign policy, ego	kpx_1482						X	
Foreign policy, importance	kpx_1483						X	
Left-right assessment, parties	kpx_1490	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Left-right self-assessment	kpx_1500	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Left-right assessment coalitions	kpx_1510				X		X	
Emotions: Anger, intensity, Merkel	kpx_1520		X			X		X
Emotions: Enthusiasm, intensity, Merkel	kpx_1530		X			X		X
Emotions: Anger, intensity, Steinmeier	kpx_1540		X			X		X
Emotions: Enthusiasm, intensity, Steinmeier	kpx_1550		X			X		X
Emotions: Anger, intensity, federal election	kpx_1551					X		
Emotions: Enthusiasm, intensity, federal election	kpx_1552					X		
Emotions: Anger, intensity, election result	kpx_1553							X
Emotions: Enthusiasm, intensity, election result	kpx_1554							X
Emotions: Worries, intensity, battery	kpx_1560		X			X		X
Need...	kpx_1570				X		X	
Willingness to take risks	kpx_1571						X	
Collective efficacy/conflict avoidance/locus of control	kpx_1572						X	
Most important information source, current	kpx_1580		X		X			
General Internet use, current	kpx_1590		X	X	X	X	X	X
Internet use, politically current	kpx_1600		X	X	X	X	X	X
Internet use, frequently visited pages, based	kpx_1610		X	X	X	X	X	X
Most important information source, in general	kpx_1620	X						
General Internet use in general	kpx_1630	X						
Internet use, political, in general	kpx_1640	X						
Internet use, pages in general, open	kpx_1650	X						
Use of print media – politically current	kpx_1660		X	X	X	X	X	X
Use of print media – bias, current	kpx_1670		X	X	X	X	X	X
Use of TV, news, current	kpx_1680		X	X	X	X	X	X
Use of TV, bias, current	kpx_1690		X	X	X	X	X	X
News magazines, current	kpx_1700		X	X	X	X	X	X
News magazines – bias, current	kpx_1710		X	X	X	X	X	X
Use of print media – political, in general	kpx_1720	X						
Use of print media – bias, in general	kpx_1730	X						
Television use, news in general	kpx_1740	X						
Television use – bias, in general	kpx_1750	X						
News magazines, in general	kpx_1760	X						
News magazines – bias, in general	kpx_1770	X						
Televised debate: Probability of reception	kpx_1780				X	X		

Item	No.	W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6	W7
Televised debate: Expected result	kpx_1790				X	X		
Televised debate: Reception	kpx_1800						X	
Televised debate: Perception of Merkel's performance	kpx_1810						X	
Televised debate: Perception of Steinmeier's performance	kpx_1820						X	
Televised debate: Positive aspects Merkel	kpx_1830						X	
Televised debate: Negative aspects Merkel	kpx_1840						X	
Televised debate: Positive aspects Steinmeier	kpx_1850						X	
Televised debate: Negative aspects Steinmeier	kpx_1860						X	
Televised debate: Reception of media response	kpx_1870						X	
Televised debate: Perceived media response, Merkel	kpx_1880						X	
Televised debate: Perceived media response, Steinmeier	kpx_1890						X	
Televised debate: Reception of response of social environment	kpx_1900						X	
Televised debate: Reception of response of social environment, Merkel	kpx_1910						X	
Televised debate: Reception of response of social environment, Steinmeier	kpx_1920						X	
Discussions about politics	kpx_1930	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
First discussion partner, relationship	kpx_1940	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
First discussion partner, knowledge of politics	kpx_1950	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
First discussion partner, difference of opinion	kpx_1960	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
First discussion partner, voting decision	kpx_1970	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
First discussion partner, party identification	kpx_1980	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
First discussion partner, party identification, party	kpx_1990	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Further discussion partners	kpx_2000			X*				
Second discussion partner, relationship	kpx_2010			X*				
Second discussion partner, knowledge of politics	kpx_2020			X*				
Second discussion partner, difference of opinion	kpx_2030			X*				
Second discussion partner, voting decision	kpx_2040			X*				
Second discussion partner, party identification	kpx_2050			X*				
Second discussion partner, party identification, party	kpx_2060			X*				
Battery of values	kpx_2070		X			X		X
Inglehart-Items	kpx_2080						X	
Party identification	kpx_2090	X		X		X		X
Party identification, strength	kpx_2100	X		X		X		X
Party identification, persistence	kpx_2110	X		X		X		X
Party identification, inquiries	kpx_2120			X				
Party identification father	kpx_2130					X		
Party identification mother	kpx_2140					X		
Fairness/egalitarianism	kpx_2150					X		
General trust	kpx_2160					X		
General well-being	kpx_2170					X		
Personality battery	kpx_2180	X					X	

Item	No.	W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6	W7
ASKO	kpx_2190			X				
Attachment battery	kpx_2200	X				X		
Fairness social order	kpx_2250					X		
Fairness population group	kpx_2260					X		
Fairness ego	kpx_2270					X		
Sex	kpx_2280	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Date of birth	kpx_2290	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Marital status	kpx_2300	X		X*				
Respondent has a partner	kpx_2310	X	X	X*				
School leaving certificate	kpx_2320	X	X	X*	X	X	X	X
Vocational and professional training	kpx_2330	X		X*				
Employment status	kpx_2340	X		X*				
Former gainful employment	kpx_2350	X		X*				
Unemployment	kpx_2360	X		X*				
Duration of unemployment	kpx_2370	X		X*				
Unemployment at the moment	kpx_2371					X		
Duration of unemployment at the moment	kpx_2372					X		
Profession	kpx_2380	X		X*				
Former profession	kpx_2390	X		X*				
School leaving certificate partner	kpx_2391	X		X*				
Gainful employment partner	kpx_2400	X		X*				
Former employment partner	kpx_2410	X		X*				
Profession partner	kpx_2420	X		X*				
Former profession partner	kpx_2430	X		X*				
Household size	kpx_2440	X		X*				
Persons under 18	kpx_2450	X		X*				
Membership of organizations	kpx_2460		X					
Membership of trade unions, household	kpx_2470		X					
Religion	kpx_2480		X					
Church attendance, Christian	kpx_2490		X					
Synagogue attendance, Jewish	kpx_2500		X					
Mosque attendance, Islamic	kpx_2510		X					
German citizenship	kpx_2520		X					
German citizenship, since when	kpx_2530		X					
Country of birth	kpx_2540		X					
Age, immigration	kpx_2550		X					
Country of birth, partner	kpx_2560		X					
Country of birth, parents	kpx_2570		X					
Subjective perception of class	kpx_2580		X					
Net household income	kpx_2590		X					
Residence	kpx_2600		X					
Federal state	kpx_2601	X		X				
Postal code	kpx_2602	X		X*				
Satisfaction social market economy	kpx_2610					X		
Notion of social market economy	kpx_2620					X		

Item	No.	W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6	W7
Priority government spending	kpx_2630			X				
Participation next wave	kpx_2640	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Participation subsequent waves	kpx_2650	X	X	X	X	X		
German Armed Forces, foreign assignments	kpx_2660			X		X	X	X
German Armed Forces, war in Afghanistan	kpx_2670			X		X	X	X
Nuclear power, options	kpx_2680			X		X		
Nuclear power, statements	kpx_2690			X		X		
Old vs. young, statements	kpx_2700			X		X		
Old vs. young, linking of pensions to net salaries	kpx_2710			X		X		
Economic crisis, satisfaction federal government	kpx_2720				X			
Economic crisis, statements	kpx_2730				X			

\* Panel wave 3 comprises separate questionnaires for those respondents who started participation in the panel in wave 1 (variant A) and those respondents who have been interviewed for the first time in wave 2 (variant B). The latter included questions on the socio-demographic background of the respondents, which the initial respondents already answered in wave 1 (kp3\_2300, kp3\_2310, kp3\_2330 to kp3\_2370, kp3\_2380 to kp3\_2450, kp3\_2602). The questionnaire for the initial respondents instead included a set of questions on further discussion partners (kp3\_2000 to kp3\_2060).

### 4.3 Variable Names

The variable names in the dataset consist of a wave identifier and an identifier for the respective item. For example, Item 2280 in wave 1 is named kp1\_2280. The so-called "W-Variables" (e.g., w1) refer to the participation in the several waves and provide information in which waves the respondents participated. Respondents who did not participate in a particular wave are coded as system missing values in the corresponding variable.

### 4.4 Variables in the Dataset

The dataset of the Short-term Campaign Panel comprises several sets of different types of variables. First, metadata describe the data collection process and the resulting dataset. Metadata include variables which are used for archiving and distributing the survey data, for instance the study number, the version number of the dataset, and the dates of the field time of the survey. Second, weights encompass cross-sectional and panel weights (see page 38). Third, context variables provide information on the regional context of the respondents. In the GLES Campaign Panel the electoral district of the respondents constitutes the regional context. Fourth, other variables as for instance marker variables for panel mutants (see page 37) and speeding respondents (see page 35) are referred to as miscellaneous variables. Fifth, system variables result from technical processes during the collection of the data. They include, among others, the time and date of the interview, the serial number of respondents, and variables, which provide information on methodological splits in the questionnaire. Sixth, the dataset includes substantial variables of interest, socio-demographic, and administrative variables. The latter give information on the participation of respondents in the panel. Seventh, time stamps are measures of the response time of respondents on each page of the survey as well as the overall interview duration. Finally, the dataset contains profile data from the online panel provider. Table 27 gives an overview on the variables in each of the seven panel waves and the panel dataset.

Table 27: Variables in the Short-term Campaign Panel

	W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6	W7	All waves	Total
Metadata	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5	5
Weights	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	68	68
Context variables	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	13	13
Miscellaneous variables	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	22	22
System variables	5	5	6	6	6	5	5	1	39
Substantial variables	308	445	492	416	514	563	521	--	3,259
Socio-demographic variables	32	30	31	4	4	4	4	32	141
Administrative variables	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	--	11
Time stamps	191	229	259	221	261	277	245	--	1,683
Profile data from the online panel provider	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	14	14
Total	538	711	790	649	787	850	775	155	5,255

#### 4.5 Missing Values

Missing values are coded with values in the range between 90 and highest possible value if the upper limit of valid values of a variable is below 90. Otherwise, missing values are set to the range between 990 and the highest value, respectively. As a general rule "don't know" is coded with the values 98 and 998 respectively, "no answer" with 99 and 999, and "not applicable" as 100 and 1000. Further missing values – like "I wasn't entitled to vote" (996) or "other/no party" (997) – are included dependent on the respective question. The answer option "not applicable" (100) is assigned to respondents who skipped a question due to skip instructions or due to methodological splits. In many cases, the respective reason for skipping the question is represented in brackets, for example: 100 "not applicable (kp1\_170: 4, 5, 98, 99)".

#### 4.6 Coding of Semi-Open-Ended Questions

The dataset includes the answers to semi-open-ended questions in two separate variables. These variables are labeled as versions A and B. The content of these variables is as follows:

Version A: Pre-formulated response options and "other"-category. This variable can also comprise recoded values. If a respondent entered an answer into the text box of the "other"-category and that answer corresponded to one of the pre-formulated response options it was recoded successively into the appropriate response option. "Other"-responses that were not interpretable are coded as "other response/no [party]".

Version B: Pre-formulated response options and the first coding of the responses to the open-ended part of the question. This variable also comprises further codings like "don't know", "other response/no [party]", and so on.

## 4.7 Coding of Answers to Open-Ended Questions

All answers to open-ended questions were coded by BACES. The codings of the reasons for voting decision (kpx\_260) and the questions concerning the most important, the second most important and the third most important issue in Germany (agenda questions, kpx\_840, kpx\_860 und kpx\_880) have been assigned according to the coding schemes of the GLES project. The coding scheme for the reasons for the decision not to vote (kpx\_240, kpx\_250) was derived from experiences that have been made with the answers of the respondents over the course of the panel. Hence, these codes were not defined a priori. They rather refer to the actual answers given by the respondents in the initial waves.

## 4.8 Coding of Political Parties

Political parties were coded according to a general GLES 2009 coding plan. The parties CDU/CSU, SPD, FDP, GRÜNE, and DIE LINKE were presented as pre-formulated answer options in any question in which the respondents had to choose between different parties. This includes the questions on the respondent's voting intention, the ability to solve the most important issues, or the expected government parties. "Other" parties could be entered into a text field. The open-ended answers were coded in the two versions for semi-open-ended questions (see above). The codes for the respective parties are presented in the GLES 2009 coding plan for political parties, which can be downloaded from <http://www.gesis.org/en/elections-home/gles/data-and-documents/documents/>.

## 4.9 Information on Response Time Variables

The response time variables (or timestamps) of the Short-term Campaign Panel are available for download in a separate data file. They can be matched to the dataset of the Campaign Panel by the serial number lfdn "ID". The dataset includes two different sets of response time variables. The first set consists of variables, named t\_Variable name (e.g., t\_kp1\_820), which measure the time in seconds between the question appearing on the screen and the time that the "Next" button was clicked to advance to the next screen. If more than one item was presented on a screen, the response time variable is named by the first variable on that particular screen. The second set comprises cumulative response time variables, named tNumber\_Variable name (e.g., t3\_kp1\_820). These variables measure the time a respondent needed to progress to the respective point of the interview. The cumulative response time variables are numbered consecutively (number after the 't') according to the question order in the survey.

## 4.10 Speeders

Due to the absence of a human interviewer to supervise respondents, learning effects in panel studies, and the specific incentive and gratification system including a lottery (see Incentives for respondents) the GLES Short-term Campaign Panel is faced with the problem of too quick response times ("speeding"). Speeding means that some of the respondents complete the survey much faster than the majority of all participants. Short interview duration is not a problem per se since sizable differences in completion time between respondents can be caused by socio-demographical and personal characteristics (e.g., formal education, age, intelligence, reaction speed). Furthermore, the repetition of questions or question blocks in panel studies induces learning effects which may cause shorter completion times. However, it can be assumed that the data quality is affected if completion times are clearly under the mean interview duration. In this case, respondents may give less substantial answers, intentionally avoid certain question blocks by learning filter sequences, or choose "no answer" and "don't know" response options more often.

There are no established standards for the identification of speeders in the literature. Generally, measures for the identification of speeders use the median or mean of the distribution of completion times and its variance. On this basis researchers pick a cut-off criterion that must not be undercut and, in some cases, not exceeded either (see for a more detailed discussion Mayerl & Urban, 2008). These respondents are then either excluded from the dataset or flagged in marker variables. In the Campaign Panel, we follow the latter approach. The dichotomous variable *zuind10* indicates whether a given respondent is considered a speeder or not.

Two criteria are used for the identification of speeders. First, response times per page are used. The number of pages displayed varied between 95 in the first wave and 138 in the sixth wave. The focus on displayed pages allows for a more differentiated measurement of response speed as compared to using one single generalized parameter measuring total response time for the whole survey. This procedure enables us to consider both complex filter sequences which might result in large differences in response time and survey interruptions (for respondents who completed the survey after a break). As a first step towards the calculation of a 'quality index' a separate index for each displayed interruption page was calculated. For respondents with a response time in the top 5 percent quantile of the distribution of elapsed time per page for all respondents the respective page was excluded from the calculation of the time index to avoid bias due to disruptions of the interview. The number of displayed pages is therefore reduced for these respondents. Participants whose response time was between the median and the top 5 percent quantile were assigned the value 1 for the respective page. For respondents with response times between one second and the median, values were calculated by dividing time (in seconds) through the median. The more the response time is below the median, the lower thus is the index value. The calculated index values for each page were averaged over the pages of all seven waves. Hence, based on response time an index results with a theoretical range of values between 0 and 1, where low values indicate too quick response time and therefore poorer data quality while high values accordingly indicate an appropriate duration and a better data quality.

To account for a higher baseline response speed of some respondents and for learning effects within a seven-wave panel the identification of speeders is not only based on time, but also on the incidence of "no answer" responses. The number of questions for which no answer was given was divided by the theoretical maximum for each respondent. The resulting ratio ranges from 0 to 1. It is 1 if a respondent always provided an answer and it is 0 if a respondent did not provide an answer for the maximum possible number of questions. Based on these index values, mean values over all seven waves were calculated.

The final index for the identification of speeders was constructed by combining the time index and the "no answer"-index with equal weights, i.e., the average of both indices was calculated. Consequently, the speeder index ranges from 0 to 1. The index is heavily skewed with a mean of 0.908 and a standard deviation of 0.07, suggesting a generally very good data quality. Yet, regarding an empirical minimum of 0.25 and an empirical maximum of 1, observations occur over nearly the whole range. Based on the combined index the marker variable for speeding was constructed. Speeders in the GLES Campaign Panel are those respondents whose index values are in the bottom 10 percent quantile of the distribution. These are 456 respondents in total.

Given the description of speeders above, it is recommended to exclude respondents marked as speeders from Campaign Panel analyses. Separate weights (see page 38) are provided for analyses with and without speeders.

The new speeder index in version 5.0.0 was developed by Rossmann (2010) and it identifies speeders by the amount of time respondents needed for the survey. The index (*kpx\_speederindex*) range from 0 to 2 and includes time per every seen page in the survey as well as the interview duration in total for each respondent. The index is 1 if a respondent took the average time to answer the questions, close to 0 if the respondent was fast and close to 2 if the respondent took a long time for answering compared to all respondents of the survey. Users have the opportunity to flag the speeders setting a certain "critical" level on their own.

#### 4.11 Panel Mutants

Besides panel attrition and panel conditioning, panel studies – and especially online panels – face the problem of "mutation" of respondents. Panel mutation means that socio-demographical characteristics of target persons change. This can, firstly, be a result of natural processes (ageing, continuing education). Such mutations are unproblematic and should, in a seven-wave panel covering 14 weeks, affect only a small number of respondents, if any. A second, more problematic, source for mutations are intended (and unintended) false statements which are caused by lacking interview supervision and learning effects in the course of the panel (i.e., panel effects, cf. Schnell, Hill, & Esser, 2005), both of which can result in less thoroughly survey participation. The third possible reason for mutation also results from the absence of interview supervision: It cannot be precluded that persons other than the target person take part in a panel wave.

To reduce the incidence of mutation, sex, age, and formal education were surveyed at the very beginning of each wave. This information was also used for quota sampling. Decisive for the identification of a respondent as a mutant was the combination of all three attributes as stated in his or her first wave (either wave 1 or wave 2). If answers differ in a following wave compared to the first wave, the respondent is considered a mutant. Unfortunately, Respondi could not guarantee real-time verification of the correct combination (in comparison to the first wave) so that mutation could not be prevented, e.g., by annotating a message like "You are not the correct target person!" and restricting the access to any further questions in these instances. A further potential source for mutations emerged during questionnaire programming by BACES. The order of answer categories for sex unintentionally was changed several times (W1–W3, W5: female/male; W4, W6, W7: male/female). This alteration may possibly have irritated respondents and increased the possibility of false statements.

Identification and documentation of mutants could only be implemented ex-post, after the termination of field work. In total, the following mutations occurred (Table 28 and Table 29).

**Table 28: Panel Mutants**

Panel mutants in total	1,045
Cases deleted	293
Cases adjusted	752

**Table 29: Adjustment of Panel Mutants**

N=752, in %	W1	W2	W3	W4	W5	W6	W7
Wave deleted	--	17.7	21.4	18.5	20.9	20.3	19.7
No adjustment	97.5	71.9	66.9	68.1	66.6	70.1	70.3
Adjustment	2.5	10.4	11.7	13.4	12.5	9.6	10.0
thereof adjustment of							
Sex	--	--	--	2.0	3.3	0.9	1.1
Education	1.3	9.2	10.6	9.0	7.6	7.0	7.4
Year of birth	1.2	1.2	1.1	2.4	1.6	1.5	1.5
Education and year of birth	--	--	--	--	--	0.1	--

Mutants were handled as follows:

*Cases were deleted from the dataset* if one or more characteristics differed in all following waves compared to the first wave. The only exceptions were differences for year of birth if the mistake occurred in wave 1 because the age or "19" (the respondent thought he should enter his year of birth with four digits while only two digits were accepted) was entered, provided that by checking other



variables (occupation, employment) the age could be ascertained without doubt. In total, based on these criteria, 293 respondents were excluded from the dataset.

*Single waves were deleted from the dataset if ...*

- at least two characteristics changed.
- a one-time alteration of sex occurred in waves one to three or multiple alterations in all waves.
- year of birth changed by at least one year in either direction and if "19" was entered (exception: first wave and all other waves match, see above).
- formal education changed by at least one level in either direction in more than two waves. Waves were also deleted for one-time changes by more than one educational level. If multiple alterations occurred, all waves differing from the first wave were deleted.

*Socio-demographical characteristics were adjusted if ...*

- alterations of sex occurred in waves four to seven (because of differing response orders caused by BACES).
- year of birth changed:
  - If by mistake the age was entered (sum of age + year of birth as entered in a following wave = 2008 or 2009).
  - If by mistake "19" was entered and by checking other variables (occupation, employment) it could be assured that the respondent could not possibly be born in 1919.
  - If one of the mentioned changes of year of birth did only occur in wave one and all other waves matched, wave one was adjusted.
- formal education changed:
  - For one or two identical changes (one educational level in either direction or confusion of educational attainment and "still in school" for young respondents).
  - Three identical changes were only accepted for young respondents (under 21).

Generally, adjustments were only allowed for less than half of all available waves.

The dataset includes variables which indicate mutation of respondents who remained in the dataset. The variable *mutant* indicates whether for a given respondent any mutations occurred or not. The variables *mut\_w1* through *mut\_w7* contain detailed information about what was done with socio-demographical and other information of the respondent in the respective wave. These variables thus provide detailed information about all mutations. For a summary, see Table 29.

## 4.12 Weights

The following description of weights included in the dataset aims to facilitate their use. We differentiate between cross-section and panel weights.

### 4.12.1 Cross-section weights

Cross-section weights were calculated to adjust socio-demographical characteristics of the sample to the marginal distributions in the target population (cf. Table 30). References for these post-stratification adjustment weights were the microcensus 2009 for the German electorate and the so-

called (N)Onliner-Atlas 2009 (Initiative D21, 2009) for the online population. Using IPF (iterative proportional fitting, cf. Deming & Stephan, 1940), marginal distributions of single panel waves were adjusted to benchmark distributions of age, sex, educational attainment, and region of origin taken from the microcensus 2009 and the (N)Onliner-Atlas 2009, respectively. Iteration in this context means the process of stepwise adjustment for each of the four variables. In each step, the resulting weights serve as starting point for the adjustment to the margin of the next variable. This process is repeated until the difference between the weighted marginal distributions and the benchmark distributions of all included variables in a given wave falls below a pre-defined termination criterion (0.05 percent).

Since the identification of speeders (see page 35) requires a separate calculation of weights, for each wave (X: 1–7) four different cross-section weights are provided:

- gew\_q1\_wX: Cross-section weight including speeders, adjusted to the microcensus
- gew\_q2\_wX: Cross-section weight including speeders, adjusted to the (N)Onliner-Atlas
- gew\_q3\_wX: Cross-section weight excluding speeders, adjusted to the microcensus
- gew\_q4\_wX: Cross-section weight excluding speeders, adjusted to the (N)Onliner-atlas

An exception to this rule is wave 2, due to the recruitment of additional respondents. Therefore, four additional weights are provided (gew\_q5\_w2, gew\_q6\_w2, gew\_q7\_w2 und gew\_q8\_w2).

The variable age (kpx\_2290) was categorized in the intervals "18 to under 30 years", "30 to under 40 years", "40 to under 50 years", "50 to under 60 years", and "60 years and older". Regarding the variable educational attainment (kpx\_2320), the categories "Finished school without school leaving certificate" and "Lowest formal qualification of Germany's tripartite secondary school system, after 8 or 9 years of schooling ("Hauptschulabschluss, Volksschulabschluss")" were combined, as well as the categories "Certificate fulfilling entrance requirements to study at a polytechnical college/university of applied sciences ("Fachhochschulreife (Abschluss einer Fachoberschule etc.)")" and "Higher qualification, entitling holders to study at a university ("Abitur or Erweiterte Oberschule mit Abschluss 12. Klasse (Hochschulreife)")". Thus, the category "Intermediary secondary qualification, after 10 years of schooling ("Mittlere Reife, Realschulabschluss, or Polytechnische Oberschule mit Abschluss 10. Klasse")" remained unchanged. Due to the low number of respondents still attending school these respondents were assigned to the aforementioned categories based on their age and the estimation on their prospective economic situation. The variable sex (kpx\_2280) has the values "male" and "female", region of origin (kpx\_2601) is either "Western Germany" or "Eastern Germany (including Berlin)". Missing values were replaced by the master data of the online panel whenever this was possible.

The calculation of weights adjusting to the distributions in the electorate (microcensus 2009) as well as to the distributions in the online population (Initiative D21, 2009) was interrupted after a few iterations, because the difference between the weighted marginal distributions in the sample and the benchmark distributions was lower than the termination criterion of 0.05 percent. 95 percent of the cases are weighted with a factor smaller than 3.2. To avoid extremely large weighting factors due to the higher proportion of respondents older than 60 years who do not have access to the Internet, factors were trimmed at the mean value of the weighting variable multiplied by five. Thus, the weighting factors range from 0.4 to 5.0. For the adjustment to the benchmark distributions of the online population (Initiative D21, 2009) 95 percent of all cases are weighted with a factor smaller than 2.3. The factors range from 0.5 to 3.0 so that trimming was not necessary.

Table 30: Cross-Section Weights: Benchmark and Marginal Distributions (1st and 7th Wave)

	Bench- mark (Micro- census 2009)	Bench- mark ((N) Onliner- Atlas 2009)	Marginal distri- bution before weighting (incl. speeders)	Marginal distri- bution before weighting (with- out speeders)	Marginal distri- bution after weighting (Microcensus 2009)	Marginal distri- bution after weighting ((N)Onliner- Atlas 2009)
	Wave 1	Wave 7	Wave 1	Wave 7	Wave 1	Wave 7
<b>Sex</b>						
Male	48.3	53.6	49.5	50.0	49.9	50.1
Female	51.7	46.4	50.5	50.0	50.1	49.9
<b>Age from ... to under ... years</b>						
18-30	16.7	23.3	25.3	23.3	23.2	21.1
30-40	13.7	21.2	20.0	18.6	19.4	17.5
40-50	20.1	24.3	23.8	25.5	24.6	26.5
50-60	16.8	15.9	15.9	17.1	16.5	17.9
60 and older	32.7	15.3	15.0	15.5	16.3	17.0
<b>Education</b>						
No graduation/ elementary and "Hauptschule"	44.2	34.9	26.8	21.5	27.1	22.0
graduation Secondary school leaving certificate	29.7	32.6	39.6	41.5	39.3	41.1
Higher education or technical college entrance qualification	26.1	32.5	33.6	37.0	33.6	36.9
<b>Region of origin</b>						
West Germany	78.1	79.6	81.7	80.7	81.5	80.3
East Germany (incl. Berlin)	21.9	20.4	18.3	19.3	18.5	19.7

#### 4.12.2 Panel weights

To account for the problem of non-random loss of respondents in the course of the panel study (panel attrition), panel weights were calculated in addition to the cross-section weights described above. These weights use the information about dropped-out respondents from the previous wave to model the attrition process. Due to the complexity of the calculation, the procedure will be described in some detail (cf. Kroh & Spieß, 2008; Vandecasteele & Debels, 2007). Afterwards, some advice will be provided on how to use the weight variables.

Since wave 1 respondents are not subject to attrition effects, the weight for panel wave 1 is equivalent to the iteratively calculated cross-section weight as described above for the two references (microcensus and Initiative D21, respectively). The weights calculated with the IPF-algorithm are then used as starting values for the second wave. These starting values are multiplied by the inverse of the propensity of survival (i.e., the probability to stay in the panel) taken from a multivariate logistic regression model. Respondents with a low survival propensity thus receive a higher weight than re-

spondents with a high propensity. The advantage of this procedure is that attitudinal and socio-demographical variables can explain who remains in or drops out of the panel. To calculate the individual survival probabilities the variables listed in Table 31 were included. To avoid losing too many cases in the multivariate model due to missing values, respondents for whom no individual propensities could be calculated were assigned the mean survival propensity of this group. Finally, the weights calculated by multiplying the starting value with the inverse survival propensity were again adjusted to the known distributions of the microcensus 2009 or the Initiative D21 2009 using the IPF-algorithm. The termination criterion (0.05 percent) again was reached after a few iterations.

Regarding the respondents recruited in wave 2, a different procedure had to be applied as they obviously could not drop out of the panel in this wave. The total weight, i.e., the panel weight combining the cross-section weight with the inverse survival propensity, for these respondents in wave 2 only consists of the socio-demographical adjustments to the microcensus 2009 or the Initiative D21 2009. Beginning with wave 3, panel weights for these respondents could be calculated by the regular procedure just described, using the total weight of the previous wave as a starting value.

A further problem affects the calculation of panel weights for respondents who interrupt individual panel waves but continue their participation in later waves. For these respondents, no information is available regarding the wave before their return to the panel so that no survival propensities can be calculated. To calculate weights for these returners, they first were assigned the last available total weight as a starting value. These values were then multiplied by the inverse survival propensity of those respondents who participated in the respective wave and the previous wave. If, for example, a respondent participated in waves 1, 2, 5, 6, and 7, the weight for this respondent after his or her return in wave 5 consists of the total weight from wave 2 (which adjusts the marginal distributions of socio-demographical variables to the benchmark distributions and corrects for panel attrition in wave 2), multiplied by the inverse survival propensity of those respondents who participated in waves 2 and 3. By doing so it is ensured that the total weight of the last wave included in an analysis contains all attrition effects of all previous waves and simultaneously no cases are missing due to temporal interruption of their participation.

The panel weights calculated in this way after adjustment to the microcensus 2009 are distributed in a way that 95 percent of all cases have a weight smaller than 2.8. The weights range between 0.4 and 5.0. For the adjustment to the online population almost 95 percent of all weights are smaller than 2.0 with all values being in an interval from 0.5 to 5.0. Very large weights were – as for cross-section weights – limited to five times the mean value. Given the separate calculation of weights for speeders (see above), for each wave (X: 2-7) thus four panel weights for correcting non-random attrition in the course of the panel are provided.

- gew\_p1\_wX: Panel weight including speeders, adjusting to the microcensus
- gew\_p2\_wX: Panel weight including speeders, adjusting to the (N)Onliner-Atlas
- gew\_p3\_wX: Panel weight excluding speeders, adjusting to the microcensus
- gew\_p4\_wX: Panel weight excluding speeders, adjusting to the (N)Onliner-Atlas

The user therefore can choose between 32 cross-section weights and 28 panel weights for the adjustment to the electorate (microcensus 2009) and to the online population (Initiative D21, 2009). Additionally, 8 weights (gew\_q1\_ges to gew\_p4\_ges) were calculated which should be used if the analysis only includes respondents who participated in all seven waves respectively in all six waves for respondents who started their participation in wave 2. Yet not all theoretically possible weights could be calculated, e.g., for the analysis of variables included in waves 1, 2, and 5 only. Otherwise the already large number of weights would have multiplied. However, weighted analyses of specific questions that do not cover all waves are possible. To this end the weight of the last wave should be used in which the analyzed variables are included.

To make the calculation of panel weights and survival propensities as comprehensible as possible, logit coefficients for each wave including speeders are provided in Table 32 and excluding speeders in Table 33.

**Table 31: Variables Used to Model Panel Attrition**

Variable	Label	Wert
Sex (female)	Respondent is a woman	0/1
Age (30-39 years)	Respondent is between 30 and 39 years old	0/1
Age (40-49 years)	Respondent is between 40 and 49 years old	0/1
Age (50-59 years)	Respondent is between 50 and 59 years old	0/1
Age (60 and older)	Respondent is 60 years old or older	0/1
School leaving certificate (intermediate)	Respondent has a secondary school leaving certificate	0/1
School leaving certificate (high)	Respondent has a higher education or technical college entrance qualification	0/1
Region of origin (East Germany)	Respondent is from East Germany	0/1
Employment status (homemaker)	Respondent is homemaker	0/1
Employment status (pensioner)	Respondent is pensioner	0/1
Marital status (registered life partnership)	Respondent's marital status is registered life partnership	0/1
Household size (5 people and more)	Respondent's household size is 5 people and more	0/1
Willingness to participate next wave	Respondent is willing to participate in the next panel wave	0/1
Number of participations until now (2)	Respondent participated in 2 panel waves until now	0/1
Number of participations until now (3)	Respondent participated in 3 panel waves until now	0/1
Number of participations until now (4)	Respondent participated in 4 panel waves until now	0/1
Number of participations until now (5)	Respondent participated in 5 panel waves until now	0/1
Intention to vote	5-point scale from certainly not (0) to certainly (1)	0-1
Party frustration	11-point scale from minor (0) to high (1)	0-1
Indecision regarding preference of chancellor	Respondent is undecided regarding preference of chancellor (Merkel/Steinmeier = 0, don't know/no answer = 1)	0/1
Political knowledge: 5%-threshold	Political knowledge (wrong answer/don't know/no answer = 0, right answer = 1)	0/1
Frequency of discussions about politics	Frequency of discussions about politics: 8-point scale from never (0) to daily (1)	0-1

Table 32: Standardized Logit Coefficients for Explaining the Survival Probability, Including Speeders

	Wave 2	Wave 3	Wave 4	Wave 5	Wave 6	Wave 7
Sex (female)						0.30 (0.13)*
Age (30-39 years)			0.89 (0.38)*			0.58 (0.24)*
Age (40-49 years)		0.50 (0.19)**			-0.78 (0.38)*	
Age (50-59 years)	0.72 (0.16)***		1.49 (0.44)**	0.36 (0.18)*		0.78 (0.29)**
Age (60 and older)			0.42 (0.17)*			
School leaving certificate (intermediate)			0.94 (0.17)***		0.36 (0.14)**	0.37 (0.14)**
School leaving certificate (high)	0.65 (0.13)***	0.28 (0.14)*	0.65 (0.13)***	0.32 (0.16)*		
Region of origin (East Germany)					1.90 (0.53)***	
Employment status (homemaker)	0.72 (0.20)***					
Employment status (pensioner)	0.54 (0.19)**					
Marital status (registered life partnership)	-0.60 (0.21)**					
Household size (5 people and more)	-0.42 (0.16)**					
Willingness to participate next wave	2.09 (0.33)***	1.31 (0.29)***			2.61 (0.54)***	0.72 (0.21)**
Number of participations until now (2)			0.78 (0.10)***	1.42 (0.20)***	0.89 (0.32)**	
Number of participations until now (3)				2.07 (0.20)***	1.84 (0.29)***	0.83 (0.24)**
Number of participations until now (4)					2.60 (0.29)***	1.47 (0.21)***
Number of participations until now (5)						2.11 (0.21)***
Intention to vote						0.47 (0.22)*
Party frustration	1.58 (0.70)*	0.87 (0.38)*			2.84 (1.19)*	
Indecision regarding preference of chancellor						0.82 (0.30)**
Political knowledge: 5%-threshold		0.34 (0.11)**				
Frequency of discussions about politics	-1.10 (0.55)*	-2.20 (0.79)**				
Sex (female) x school leaving certificate (intermediate)			-0.53 (0.20)**			
Sex (female) x age (30-39 years)						-0.63 (0.30)*
Sex (female) x region of origin (East	-0.69				-0.56	

	Wave 2	Wave 3	Wave 4	Wave 5	Wave 6	Wave 7
Germany)	(0.21)**				(0.28)*	
Sex (female) x indecision regarding preference of chancellor		1.02 (0.45)*	-0.74 (0.37)*			
School leaving certificate (intermediate) x age (30-39 years)	0.57 (0.22)**	0.50 (0.25)*				
School leaving certificate (intermediate) x age (40-49 years)	0.42 (0.21)*					
School leaving certificate (intermediate) x Willingness to participate next wave	0.99 (0.41)*					
School leaving certificate (high) x age (50-59 years)	-1.23 (0.28)***					
School leaving certificate (high) x age (60 and older)	-0.54 (0.25)*					
Age (30-39 years) x intention to vote			-1.13 (0.44)*			
Age (30-39 years) x indecision regarding preference of chancellor			-1.36 (0.54)*	-1.54 (0.50)**		
Age (30-39 years) x frequency of discussions about politics			1.23 (0.56)*			
Age (40-49 years) x intention to vote					0.97 (0.42)*	
Age (40-49 years) x party frustration		-1.09 (0.48)*				
Age (50-59 years) x intention to vote			-1.12 (0.49)*			
Age (50-59 years) x party frustration		-1.21 (0.56)*				-1.40 (0.66)*
Age (60 and older) x indecision regarding preference of chancellor			-1.64 (0.50)**			-1.25 (0.52)*
Age (60 and older) x frequency of discussions about politics		1.37 (0.52)**				
Region of origin (East Germany) x school leaving certificate (high)				0.77 (0.30)*		
Region of origin (East Germany) x intention to vote					-1.50 (0.55)**	
Willingness to participate next wave x intention to vote			1.30 (0.66)*			
Willingness to participate next wave x party frustration	-1.54 (0.71)*				-3.10 (1.21)*	
Willingness to participate next wave x frequency of discussions about politics		1.85 (0.79)*				
Intention to vote x frequency of discussions about politics	1.19 (0.60)*					
McFadden's R <sup>2</sup>	0.06	0.05	0.08	0.09	0.12	0.08
N	3,725	3,677	3,393	3,111	2,993	2,755

Note: \*\*\* p<0.001, \*\* p<0.01, \* p<0.05. Standard errors are in brackets.

**Table 33: Standardized Logit Coefficients for Explaining the Survival Probability, Without Speeders**

	Wave 2	Wave 3	Wave 4	Wave 5	Wave 6	Wave 7
Sex (female)						0.25 (0.13)*
School leaving certificate (intermediate)			0.97 (0.18)***	0.48 (0.15)**	0.40 (0.14)**	0.33 (0.15)*
School leaving certificate (high)	0.73 (0.17)***	0.28 (0.14)*	0.79 (0.15)***	0.44 (0.16)**		
Age (30-39 years)	1.13 (0.44)*					0.79 (0.30)*
Age (40-49 years)	0.60 (0.18)**	0.57 (0.20)**	-0.73 (0.36)*		-0.97 (0.42)*	
Age (50-59 years)	0.89 (0.18)***	1.94 (0.70)**		0.75 (0.27)**		
Region of origin (East Germany)					2.28 (0.58)***	
Willingness to participate next wave	2.21 (0.35)***	1.96 (0.47)***	1.75 (0.25)***	1.64 (0.24)***	2.71 (0.58)***	1.18 (0.25)***
Number of participations until now (2)			0.72 (0.11)***	1.42 (0.21)***	1.01 (0.33)**	
Number of participations until now (3)				2.02 (0.21)***	1.86 (0.30)***	0.78 (0.26)**
Number of participations until now (4)					2.66 (0.30)***	1.43 (0.23)***
Number of participations until now (5)						2.03 (0.22)***
Employment status (homemaker)	0.78 (0.21)***					
Employment status (pensioner)	0.52 (0.19)**					
Marital status (registered life partnership)	-0.62 (0.22)**					
Household size (5 people and more)	-0.39 (0.17)*					
Intention to vote						0.56 (0.24)*
Party frustration	1.97 (0.77)*	2.44 (1.07)*			2.91 (1.35)*	
Indecision regarding preference of chancellor			-0.98 (0.33)**			1.67 (0.57)**
Political knowledge: 5%-threshold		0.38 (0.11)**				
Frequency of discussions about politics		-2.34 (0.90)**				
Sex (female) x school leaving certificate (intermediate)			-0.55 (0.22)*			
Sex (female) x age (30-39 years)						-0.68 (0.32)*
Sex (female) x age (50-59 years)			0.55 (0.28)*			
Sex (female) x region of origin (East	-0.63					



	Wave 2	Wave 3	Wave 4	Wave 5	Wave 6	Wave 7
Germany)	(0.21)**					
Sex (female) x party frustration		1.07 (0.48)*				
Sex (female) x indecision regarding preference of chancellor		-0.92 (0.42)*				
Sex (female) x frequency of discus- sions about politics			-0.86 (0.43)*			
School leaving certificate (high) x age (50-59 years)	-0.96 (0.29)**					
School leaving certificate (intermedi- ate) x willingness to participate next wave	0.97 (0.44)*					
Age (30-39 years) x party frustration	-1.08 (0.48)*					
Age (30-39 years) x indecision regard- ing preference of chancellor			-1.59 (0.55)**			
Age (40-49 years) x intention to vote		1.10 (0.41)**		1.16 (0.45)*		
Age (40-49 years) x party frustration		-1.14 (0.51)*				
Age (40-49 years) x indecision regard- ing preference of chancellor		1.60 (0.51)**				
Age (50-59 years) x party frustration		-1.58 (0.58)**				
Age (60 and older) x intention to vote		1.15 (0.53)*				
Age (60 and older) x indecision re- garding preference of chancellor					-1.68 (0.59)**	
Age (60 and older) x frequency of discussions about politics		1.41 (0.54)**				
Region of origin (East Germany) x school leaving certificate (high)			0.72 (0.31)*			
Region of origin (East Germany) x intention to vote				-1.71 (0.58)**		
Region of origin (East Germany) x indecision regarding preference of chancellor		-0.99 (0.47)*				
Willingness to participate next wave x party frustration				-3.20 (1.38)*		
Willingness to participate next wave x frequency of discussions about politics		1.98 (0.89)*				
McFadden's R <sup>2</sup>	0.06	0.04	0.07	0.09	0.12	0.08
N	3,351	3,289	3,029	2,782	2,679	2,455

Note: \*\*\* p<0.001, \*\* p<0.01, \* p<0.05. Standard errors are in brackets.

### 4.13 Variables Excluded from Publicly Available Datasets

Due to legal regulations of the German data protection law it is not possible to include all variables in the public-use datasets, which are published on the Internet. Publicly available datasets have to be "factually anonymous", i.e., it is to ensure that it requires disproportional efforts to identify specific persons (based on their records and answers in the survey). In order to conform to these requirements, some variables had to be excluded from the dataset whereas the values of other variables were collapsed into broader categories.

In addition, several technical variables result from data collection process of the Web survey. These variables are only relevant to the implementation and administration of the Web survey and usually do not contain any substantial information that can be used in scientific research. Thus, these variables are also excluded from the dataset. Nonetheless, GESIS provides these variables on request: [gles@gesis.org](mailto:gles@gesis.org)

**Table 34: Excluded Variables and their Availability**

Variable	Availability
Browser ID (Information on used browser)	Available on request
Respondi-ID (internal ID)	Available on request
Absolute timestamp	Available on request
Quota (internal variable of EFS Survey)	Available on request
c_date (technical variable)	Available on request
m_date (technical variable)	Available on request
Output mode (technical variable)	Available on request
Last page	Available on request
Page history	Available on request

As a rule, the datasets only include coded numeric variables of responses to open-ended questions. The open-ended responses to the questions most, second most, and third most important issue in Germany (kpx\_840, kpx\_860, kpx\_880), reasons for decision not to vote (kpx\_240), reasons for voting decision (kpx\_260(a-b)) as well as the good and bad aspects of the chancellor candidates Merkel and Steinmeier (kpx\_690, kpx\_700, kpx\_710, kpx\_720) were controlled for problematic mentions and included in the final dataset. Problematic mentions, which would allow to identify specific persons, were overwritten to protect the anonymity of respondents, e.g. "[name, deleted due to legal reasons]". If you are interested in the original non-coded, open-ended responses please contact GESIS via e-mail ([gles@gesis.org](mailto:gles@gesis.org)).

#### 4.14 Postal Code, Electoral District, and Federal State

In the Short-term Campaign Panel as well as in the Long-term Online Tracking of the GLES two data sources contain information on the exact place or region of residence of the respondents. The first data source is the master data which the online panel provider Respondi AG collects. All participants of the online panel have to answer a series of questions on their person, whereas answering further questions on their person, personal interests, and so on is optional. Among others the Respondi AG collects information on the postal code of the place of residence and on the federal state in which the place of residence of the respondent is located. Furthermore, all panelists are required to update their master data on a regular basis. The second data source is the answers of the respondents in two of the seven interviews of the Short-term Campaign Panel. As for the master data of the panel provider, all participants of the first wave of the Short-term Campaign Panel were asked on the postal code and the federal state their place of residence is located in. In the second wave of the Short-term Campaign Panel an additional recruitment of participants was carried out to increase the overall panel size. These new respondents had to answer the questions on the postal code and the federal state in the third wave of the Short-term Campaign Panel. Unfortunately, not all newly recruited respondents participated in the third wave, so that the answers to the respective questions are missing for 147 panelists (3.2% of the 4,552 participants of the Short-term Campaign Panel). The information on the postal code of the panelists is further used to identify the electoral district where the panelists were eligible to vote in the 2009 elections to the German Bundestag. Thus, missing information on the postal code necessarily leads to missing information on the respondent's electoral district.

Due to the use of the two different data sources some inconsistencies between the information on the respondents' electoral district and the federal state occurred in the Short-term Campaign Panel. On the one hand, these inconsistencies accrued because the electoral district was identified based on the master data of the panel provider whereas the information on the federal state is taken from the interviews of the Short-term Campaign Panel. On the other hand, there are also some inconsistencies between the information on the postal code and the federal state in each data source, i.e., the postal code belonged to a different federal state than the state that was reported by the respondent.

All information on the postal code, the electoral district, and the federal state of the place of residence of the panelists were subsequently controlled and – as far as possible – corrected while preparing version 3.0.0 of the Short-term Campaign Panel. If the information on postal code and federal state was missing from the interviews of the Short-term Campaign Panel or if respondents refused to answer to these questions, we substituted the information with that from the master data of the panel provider. Overall, this was the case for 158 panelists (3.5% of all panelists). These respondents are marked in the dataset with the variable marker1. In the case that data on the postal code had to be modified or corrected, we always followed the premise that we use information from interviews of the Short-term Campaign Panel in the first place. In 56 cases (1.2% of all panelists) we reconstructed the postal code of the respondents with the help of both data sources. The variable marker2 identifies these panelists in the dataset. Nevertheless, in some instances the information from both data sources had to be controlled and corrected for inconsistencies case by case. This was the case with 43 panelists (.9% of all panelists). In 22 of these 43 cases (51.2%) we deleted all information because of heavy inconsistencies. In 5 of the 43 cases (11.6%) we could not ascertain any valid information. Lastly, in 16 of the 43 cases (37.2%) we could modify the information so that it is consistent for these cases. The variable marker3 highlights the respective 43 panelists in the dataset.

After the accurate control and cleansing of the information on the respondents' postal code, electoral district, and federal state the following picture emerges: A valid postal code is available for 4,523 panelists (99.4% of all panelists). The information on the postal code was deleted for 22 panelists (.5%) and for 7 panelists (.2%) we could not ascertain any valid information. Based on the postal code we could unambiguously identify an electoral district in which the respondents were eligible to vote in the 2009 elections to the German Bundestag for 4,298 panelists (94.4%). Further 225 panelists (4.9%) can be assigned to two or more electoral districts. For the remaining 29 panelists (.7%) we could not

determine an electoral district. Valid information on the respondents' federal state is available for 4,538 panelists (99.7%). In only 14 cases (.3%) we could not determine valid information on the respondent's federal state.

If you don't agree on our data preparation approach you can exclude the questionable cases from your analyses with the help of the variables marker1, marker2 und marker3. You'll find the information on the respondents' federal state in the variable fedstate. The variable elecdist contains the information on the unambiguous electoral district of the panelists. The variables elecdist1 – elecdist12 contain the possible electoral districts of the remaining 225 panelists, whom we could not unambiguously assign to a single electoral district.

## 5 Notes

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### 5.1 Notes on the Representativeness of Web Surveys with Respondents from Non-probability Online Panels

Analyses relying on data from Web surveys of respondents from non-probability online panels warrant attention to the following remarks: Samples drawn from non-probability online panels represent only those groups of the general population that are accessible via the Internet. Thus, younger, higher educated, and Internet savvy people are overrepresented in non-probability online panels compared to the general population. In addition, these groups most likely differ from the general population with respect to at least some of their political attitudes and predispositions. To account for these differences, the Campaign Panel survey applied quota sampling and the dataset includes cross-section and panel weights. Nevertheless, survey results are most likely biased due to the composition of the online population. Therefore, the results of analyses relying on data from the Campaign Panel cannot be generalized to the general population.

An essential advantage of conducting panel surveys is the potential to analyze intra-individual changes and causal relationships. However, repeated surveys of the same persons are issue to specific design effects (e.g., panel attrition and panel conditioning). Repeated surveys on the same or similar topics are in themselves likely to alter the attitudes of the respondents or to initiate the development of new attitudes on the topics the respondents are asked about.

Moreover, data collected from non-probability online panels are not necessarily representative for the respective population (e.g., online-based panel surveys of Internet users from a non-probability online panel) because the different ways of recruiting panel members can cause severe biases in the samples. Notably panel surveys with a larger number of panels waves are issue to respondents dropping out of the panel survey either due to systematic (e.g., decreasing motivation of respondents with less interest in the survey topic) or to unsystematic patterns (e.g., illness of respondents).

### 5.2 Errata

Several problems and errors in the dataset of the Campaign Panel were identified during the data control and preparation process. These problems and errors are listed subsequently. Unfortunately, some severe errors occurred due to incorrect programming by the survey institute: In some instances values of the affected variables either have not been saved at all or have been saved inaccurately. The respective variables are marked with the additional note "incorrect variable" in their variable labels and they do not contain their original values. Nonetheless, if there is substantial interest in the original values of those variables, they can be obtained through GESIS upon request ([gles@gesis.org](mailto:gles@gesis.org)).

#### 5.2.1 Known Problems in all or in multiple Waves

- Split positional issues (kpx\_1070 through kpx\_1483) in wave 1 to 7: The transfer of the information regarding the split group a respondent was in in wave 1 did not work properly and is partially incorrect in waves 2 to 7, so that some respondents – contrary to the intended procedure – rated certain items both on 7-point as well as on 11-point scales.
- Split Televised debate in waves 4 and 5: The transfer of the split information from wave 4 to 5 did not work correctly. As a result, the experiment on the effects of questions on the televised debate on the respondents' reception of the televised debate failed.

- kpx\_1970 First discussion partner, voting decision: The response option "is not eligible to vote" has been offered to the respondents since wave 3.
- kpx\_1970 First discussion partner, voting decision: The skip pattern for the question kpx\_1970 on the question kpx\_1980b was programmed as intended by the questionnaire only in the waves 1 and 2. The skip pattern in the waves 3 to 7 deviates from the filter redirection instructions. Those respondents who gave "no answer" (99) to the question kpx\_1970 did not receive the question kpx\_1980b and were accordingly coded as "not applicable" (100) in waves 3 to 7.
- kpx\_1990 First discussion partner, party identification, party: The field institute wrongly put CDU and CSU in just one answer category, thus resulting in the inconsistency between question and coding. Waves 1 to 4 wrongly showed the answer category "no party" which was replaced by "don't know" as of wave 5.
- Time variables per page contained errors and have been corrected. Furthermore, the state of the art speederindex of GLES was implemented for each wave. A flag variable is not provided. Weights calculated in regard to speeders and the old quality index can be found at the end of the dataset.

### 5.2.2 Known Problems in Wave 1

- kp1\_650d Scalometer politicians: Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg: No valid values have been saved due to a programming error.
- kp1\_1070a\_11 Political positions (11): Socio-economic dimension, parties: CDU: The answers (1) "lower taxes and less government spending on welfare state benefits" given at kp1\_1070a Political positions (11) Socio-economic dimension, parties, CDU were all mistakenly saved as (99) "no answer". This error could not be fixed.
- kp1\_2370 Duration of unemployment: The field institute failed to program the filter redirection to kpx\_2340.
- kp1\_2391 School leaving certificate partner: The filter redirection to this variable did not work correctly. As a result, five respondents mistakenly skipped the question. This error could not be fixed.
- kp1\_2400 Gainful employment partner: The filter redirection to this variable did not work correctly. As a result, five respondents mistakenly skipped the question. This error could not be fixed.

### 5.2.3 Known Problems in Wave 2

- kp2\_250as, kp2\_250as\_c, kp2\_250bs, kp2\_250bs\_c Reasons for decision not to vote, closed: These variables are missing in the dataset.
- kp2\_420j\_6s(\_c) Contact with political parties, way, party: These variables are missing in the dataset because there have not been any entries for other parties in this question.
- kp2\_730 Scalometer government: This question has not been asked due to a programming error and, thus, is missing in the dataset.
- kp2\_1990 First discussion partner, party identification, party: The filter redirection to this variable was implemented incorrectly. This error could not be fixed.
- kp2\_2460s: 30 respondents answered with "no" or an incomprehensible answer to the question on their membership in a political party (kp2\_2460s). 29 of these 30 respondents did not report to be member in any other organization. Thus, we suspect that these respondents missed the answer category "not a member in any association". They might have assumed that they have to answer and, accordingly, used the text field to enter an arbitrary or "no" answer. We coded the answers

of these respondents as 997 "other response/no party" in kp2\_2460s\_c and as 0 "not mentioned" in kp2\_2460g.

- kp2\_2470 Membership of trade unions, household: The field institute failed to program the answer "don't know" as originally designed.
- kp2\_2480 Religion: 15 respondents who answered (7) "other" had no data in the corresponding string variable. Their responses could not be reconstructed.

#### 5.2.4 Known Problems in Wave 3

- kp3\_split Split 7/11-scale in wave 3: One respondent has a missing value on this variable although he participated in wave 3. Hence, this respondent has not been assigned to a split.
- kp3\_420j\_6s(\_c) Contact with political parties, way, party: These variables are missing in the dataset because there have not been any entries for other parties in this question.
- kp3\_1990 First discussion partner, party identification, party: Seven respondents have been coded as (100) "not applicable" by mistake. This error could not be fixed.
- kp3\_2060 Second discussion partner, party identification, party: Mistakenly, the parties CDU and CSU were put in just one answer category.
- kp3\_2330s\_c Vocational and professional training: This variable is missing in the dataset.
- kp3\_2370 Duration of unemployment: The field institute failed to program the filter redirection to kpx\_2340.

#### 5.2.5 Known Problems in Wave 4

- kp4\_split Split 7/11-scale in wave 4: One respondent has a missing value on this variable although he participated in wave 4. Hence, this respondent has not been assigned to a split.
- kp4\_350b Recall previous federal election (second vote): All information on "other" parties is missing due to a programming error. Thus, there is only one variable in the dataset which contains the answers to the pre-formulated response options. The variables kp4\_350bs, kp4\_350bs\_c und kp4\_350bc are missing.
- kp4\_660 Characteristics of chancellor candidates: The response option "don't know" has not been displayed to the respondents due to a programming error of the field institute.
- kp4\_660l Characteristics of chancellor candidates: Angela Merkel is in touch with the people: No valid values have been saved due to a programming error.
- kp4\_450 Government, differences: Unfortunately, a great deal of the answers was mistakenly saved as (99) "no answer". This error could not be fixed.
- kp4\_460 Parties, differences: Unfortunately, a great deal of the answers was mistakenly saved as (99) "no answer". This error could not be fixed.
- kp4\_730 Scalometer government: Unfortunately, a great deal of the answers was mistakenly saved as (99) "no answer". This error could not be fixed.
- kp4\_740a-c Performance of government parties: Unfortunately, a great deal of the answers was mistakenly saved as (99) "no answer". This error could not be fixed.
- kp4\_750a-c Performance of opposition parties: Unfortunately, a great deal of the answers was mistakenly saved as (99) "no answer". This error could not be fixed.

- kp4\_1080a\_7 Political positions (7): Socio-economic dimension, chancellor candidates, Angela Merkel: Unfortunately, a great deal of the answers was mistakenly saved as (99) "no answer". This error could not be fixed.
- kp4\_1090\_7 Political positions (7): Socio-economic dimension, ego: Unfortunately, a great deal of the answers was mistakenly saved as (99) "no answer". This error could not be fixed.
- kp4\_1090\_11 Political positions (11): Socio-economic dimension, ego: Unfortunately, a great deal of the answers was mistakenly saved as (99) "no answer". This error could not be fixed.
- kp4\_1130\_7 Political positions (7): Left-right-authoritarian, ego: Unfortunately, a great deal of the answers was mistakenly saved as (99) "no answer". This error could not be fixed.
- kp4\_1130\_11 Political positions (11): Left-right-authoritarian, ego: Unfortunately, a great deal of the answers was mistakenly saved as (99) "no answer". This error could not be fixed.
- kp4\_1350a\_7 Political positions (7): Nuclear power, parties: CDU: Unfortunately, a great deal of the answers was mistakenly saved as (99) "no answer". This error could not be fixed.
- kp4\_1350a\_11 Political positions (11): Nuclear power, parties: CDU: Unfortunately, a great deal of the answers was mistakenly saved as (99) "no answer". This error could not be fixed.
- kp4\_1370\_7 Political positions (7): Nuclear power, ego: Unfortunately, a great deal of the answers was mistakenly saved as (99) "no answer". This error could not be fixed.
- kp4\_1370\_11 Political positions (11): Nuclear power, ego: Unfortunately, a great deal of the answers was mistakenly saved as (99) "no answer". This error could not be fixed.
- kp4\_1510a-f Left-right assessment coalitions: Unfortunately, a great deal of the answers was mistakenly saved as (99) "no answer". This error could not be fixed.
- kp4\_1670 Use of print media – bias, current: These variables are missing in the dataset due to a programming error.
- kp4\_1690 Use of TV, bias, current: These variables are missing in the dataset due to a programming error.
- kp4\_1990 First discussion partner, party identification, party: The filter redirection to this variable was incorrectly implemented. This error could not be fixed.
- kp4\_2720 Economic crisis, satisfaction federal government: Unfortunately, a great deal of the answers was mistakenly saved as (99) "no answer". This error could not be fixed.

### 5.2.6 Known problems in Wave 5

- kp5\_split Split 7/11-scale in wave 5: 136 missing values although the respective respondents participated in wave 5. Hence, these respondents have not been assigned to a split.
- kp5\_splithalf Split-half in wave 5: 611 missing values although the respective respondents participated in wave 5. Hence, these respondents have not been assigned to a split.
- kp5\_420i\_6s(c) Contact with political parties, way, party: I received home visits from campaigners: These variables are missing in the dataset because there have not been any entries for other parties in this question.
- kp5\_420j\_6s(c) Contact with political parties, way, party: I got phone calls: These variables are missing in the dataset because there have not been any entries for other parties in this question.
- kp5\_1061f Coalition vignettes: FDP would form a coalition with CDU and GRUENE in Saarland? One respondent answered "FDP" in kp5\_190b but was, nonetheless, erroneously assigned to (100) "not applicable".



- kp5\_1780 Televised debate: Probability of reception: 373 (out of 611) respondents with (99) "no answer" in kp5\_splithalf have been asked this question although they should not have received it. This error could not be fixed.
- kp5\_1790 Televised debate: Expected result: 373 (out of 611) respondents with (99) "no answer" in kp5\_splithalf have been asked this question although they should not have received it.
- kp5\_1990 First discussion partner, party identification, party: The filter redirection to this variable was incorrectly implemented. This error could not be fixed.

#### 5.2.7 Known problems in Wave 6

- kp6\_172 Change of intention to vote after televised debate: The instructed filter redirection was not implemented due to a programming error of the field institute.
- kp6\_273 Change of certainty of voting decision after televised debate: The filter redirection was not implemented as intended because of a programming error of the field institute.
- kp6\_274 Change of voting decision after televised debate: Due to a programming error the filter redirection was not implemented as instructed in the questions kp6\_172 and kp6\_273.
- kp6\_410 Contact with political parties, way: Item J was not asked due to a programming error of the field institute.
- kp6\_420 Contact with political parties, way, party: Item J was not asked due to a programming error of the field institute.
- kp6\_660 Characteristics of chancellor candidates: The response option "don't know" has not been displayed to the respondents due to a programming error of the field institute.
- kp6\_1990 First discussion partner, party identification, party: The filter redirection to this variable was incorrectly implemented. This error could not be fixed.

#### 5.2.8 Known problems in Wave 7

- kp7\_420j\_6s(c) Contact with political parties, way, party: I got phone calls: These variables are missing in the dataset because there have not been any entries for other parties in this question.
- kp7\_660 Characteristics of chancellor candidates: The response option "don't know" has not been displayed to the respondents due to a programming error of the field institute.
- kp7\_1980a First discussion partner, party identification: All respondents who answered in kp7\_1970 that their discussion partner intended to vote/voted for an "other" party had been coded with (99) "no answer" in kp7\_1980a.
- kp7\_1990 First discussion partner, party identification, party: The filter redirection to this variable was incorrectly implemented. This error could not be fixed.

## 6 Literature

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## 7 Links

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German Longitudinal Election Study (GLES): <http://gles.eu/wordpress/english/>

German Society for Electoral Studies (DGfW): <http://www.dgfw.info/index.php?lang=en>

GESIS – Leibniz Institute for the Social Sciences: <http://www.gesis.org/en/home/>

Goethe University Frankfurt: <http://www.uni-frankfurt.de/english/index.html>

University of Mannheim: <http://www.uni-mannheim.de/1/english/startpage/index.html>

Social Science Research Center Berlin (WZB): <http://www.wzb.eu/en>